

# NASH Country Weekly

NEW LOOK!

COUNTRY FOR LIFE | AUGUST 3, 2017

GET  
JUICED  
WITH  
GLORIANA

NASH  
NEXT  
ARTIST  
SPOTLIGHT  
MO PITNEY

REBA,  
BROOKS  
& DUNN  
HIT THE  
JACKPOT IN  
LAS VEGAS

GARTH  
BROOKS,  
TOBY  
KEITH  
AND EIGHT  
OTHERS WHO  
CASHED IN  
THIS YEAR

**TIM MCGRAW**  
and 21 other  
country stars  
with a flair for  
fashion make  
up our list of

## COUNTRY'S BEST-DRESSED MEN

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**LUKE BRYAN**  
kicks up the dust  
back on the farm





COUNTRY MUSIC'S  
MOST NAMED ARTIST TO  
WATCH IN 2015

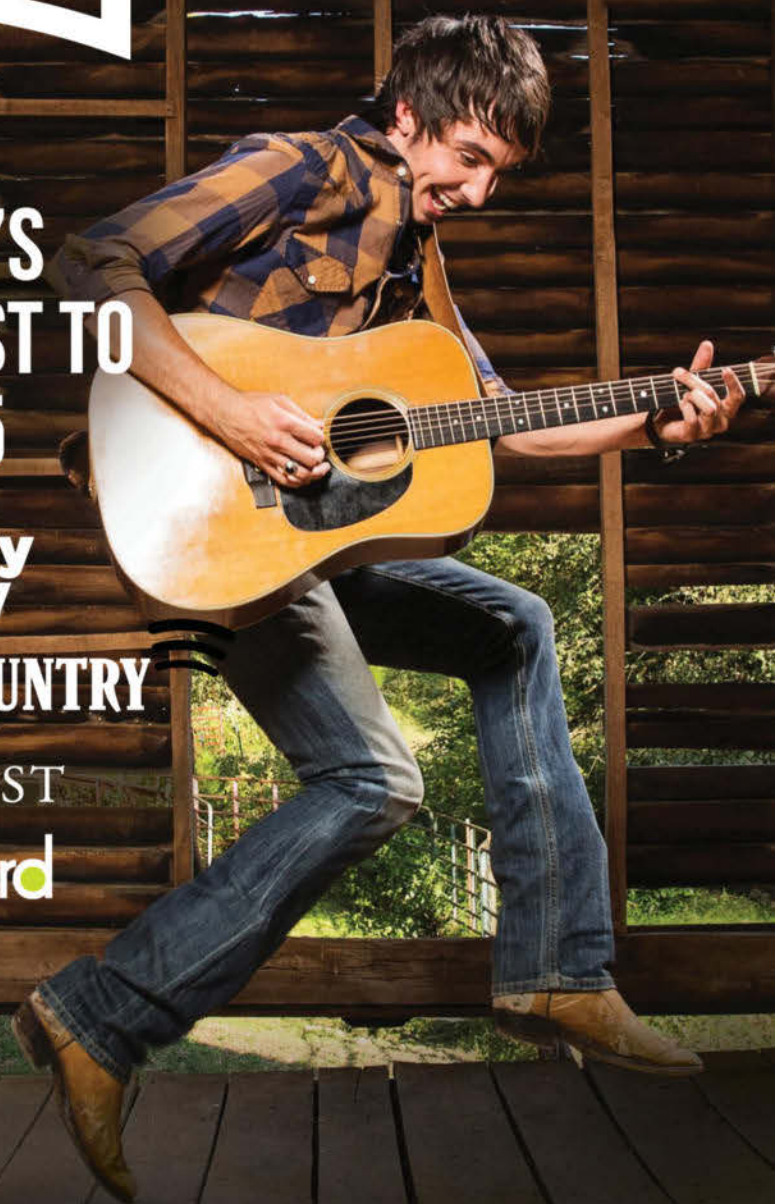
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**2002 SATURDAY, JULY 27**



## ***The Right “Stuff”***

Songwriters will happily concede that inspiration for a song can come from the most unlikely of sources. In the case of Kenny Chesney’s “The Good Stuff,” songwriters Craig Wiseman and Jim Collins drew on the touching story of a security guard at Sony/ATV Music Publishing in Nashville. Craig had found out that the man’s wife had passed away from cancer. In the book *Chicken Soup for the Soul: Country Music*, Craig related, “I had been married probably 10 or 12 years and Jim had been married 15 or 16. We talked about what it would be like to have to sit and watch your wife pass away in front of you.” Jim told Craig that he had an idea for a song called “The Good Stuff,” though personal loss was not the central theme. The two took the idea and crafted it into a song about appreciating the small things in life. Kenny Chesney recorded the tune, which became one of his all-time biggest hits. “The Good Stuff” reached No. 1 on July 27, 2002, and stayed at the top for a whopping seven weeks.

**2015**

**JULY 29:**  
**MERRY MARTINA**



Wish **MARTINA McBRIDE**, born July 29, 1966, in Medicine Lodge, Kan., a happy birthday today.

**JULY 31-AUG. 2:**  
**SWEET HOME, OREGON**

That’s not a misread on the classic Lynyrd Skynyrd tune but the actual city where the Oregon Jamboree Music Festival is taking place. **KEITH URBAN, DIERKS BENTLEY, HUNTER HAYES** and other stars headline this Pacific Northwest fest, also described as an outdoor enthusiast’s paradise with fishing, rock climbing and other activities close by. Visit [oregonjamboree.com](http://oregonjamboree.com) for more info.



**JULY 31: SUMMER SIZZLER**

Summer’s here and the time is right for the *Today* show Toyota Concert Series. **JASON ALDEAN** closes out the month as he rocks the stage in New York City the morning of July 31.





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August 3, 2015

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**40 On the Cover**  
**TIM MCGRAW** sets the style bar for the sharp-dressed men of country music.

## PLUS!



**27 New artist MO PITNEY** is drawing raves for his unassuming personality and traditional tunes. But his definition of "success" differs from most acts of his generation and you'll find out what's behind his philosophy.



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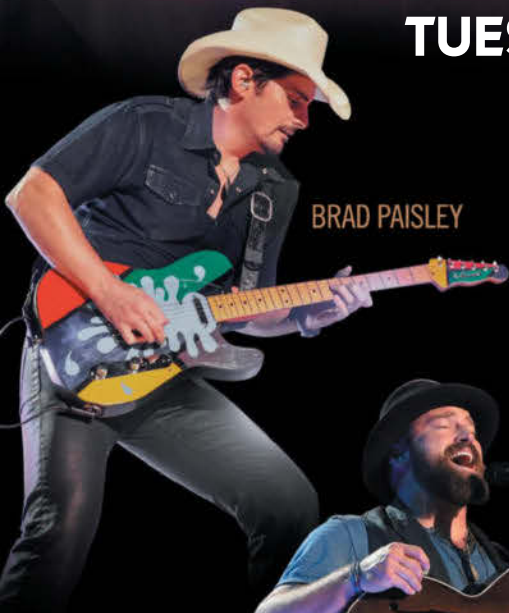
# CMA

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COUNTRY'S NIGHT TO ROCK

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TUESDAY AUG 4 8|7c 

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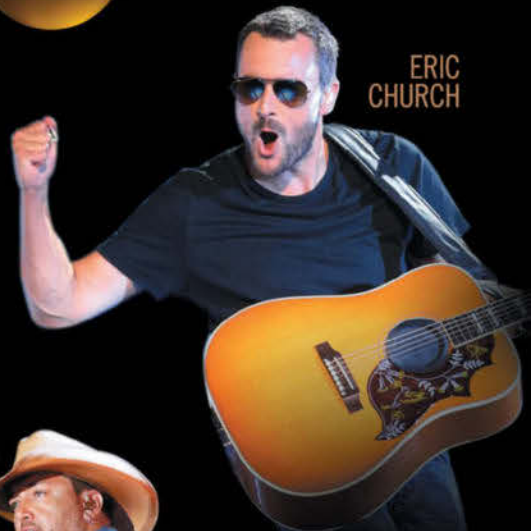


BRAD PAISLEY

CARRIE  
UNDERWOOD



ZAC BROWN  
BAND



ERIC  
CHURCH



LUKE  
BRYAN



LADY ANTEBELLUM



JASON  
ALDEAN



SAM  
HUNT

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## FROM THE EDITOR



### Dear Readers,

They say that clothes don't make the man, and while that is a true statement, in some cases they make the man look really good. For this issue, our staff sat down and deliberated about who we think are the best-dressed men in country. (I know, some days are harder than others). We get so many letters from you discussing the way the country artists dress today, so we took it upon ourselves to decide which guys get it right on the red carpet, on the stage and just in general. Tim McGraw kept coming up in every category, so he

gets our vote for all-around best-dressed guy. To find out the rest, have some fun with us and check out our cover story on page 40. These men actually make the *clothes* look good.

And while we don't have a story in this issue about husband-and-wife duo Joey+Rory, I'd like to take a minute to send my thoughts and love to Joey Martin Feek during this rough time. If you do not know, Joey had been diagnosed with stage IV cancer and went in for surgery a few weeks ago. At press time for this issue, Rory had updated us all in his blog, *This Life I Live*. He wrote that the 10-hour surgery went well and that Joey has a long road ahead with chemo and radiation. Joey and Rory are two of the kindest people in this business, and I and the NCW staff wish for them to come through all of this with flying colors. I remain hopeful that Joey will have a full recovery and will be back stronger than ever. So with that said, we are sending our love to you, Joey and Rory. XO!

On this page you will also find well-wishes from NCW readers that were posted on our Facebook page for Joey and Rory as they courageously fight this battle.

### SEE YOU NEXT WEEK!

LISA KONICKI, EDITOR IN CHIEF



NCW readers send their get-well wishes to Joey Martin Feek (Joey+Rory).

### FACEBOOK:

Wow, this family has had to face some hard tests in the past year. Our prayers and love are for them. We pray for the tender mercies of God to be upon them as Joey recovers from cancer surgery and hopefully God will heal her completely.

**PHYLLIS YARBOROUGH**

Get well soon, Joey! You and your family are in my thoughts and prayers!

**TRACY MYERS**

Sending special prayers for Joey and your family.

**DAWN EAKIN LUCAS**

May God bless and watch over you both.

**SUE WEBSTER**

Thoughts and prayers go with you throughout the day and always. The Lord is by your side now and always. God Bless.

**MARK HENRY**

Keeping you all in my thoughts and prayers. Wishing Joey a speedy recovery. May she be surrounded with love and light. May happy memories that you've made together give you both strength and comfort to ride out the storm ahead and look forward to all of the new ones that you are still yet to make as a beautiful family together.

**LEANNE GUARINO**

Prayers of healing for Joey during this time. Prayers of strength for you to help her through.

**SHARON SEAY ALLBERT**

All my prayers to you, Joey, and to you, Rory. You two are a beautiful couple and beautiful people that are blessed with beautiful voices.

**DIANE BLY**

Thinking of you all and hoping for a full and quick recovery. Lots of prayers for all.

**TAWANA RONE SHEW**

## FROM THE READER



*Shoot us an email, a comment or a tweet and let us know what you think!*

Letters, Nash Country Weekly, 506 2nd. Ave. South, Suite 200, Nashville, TN 37210

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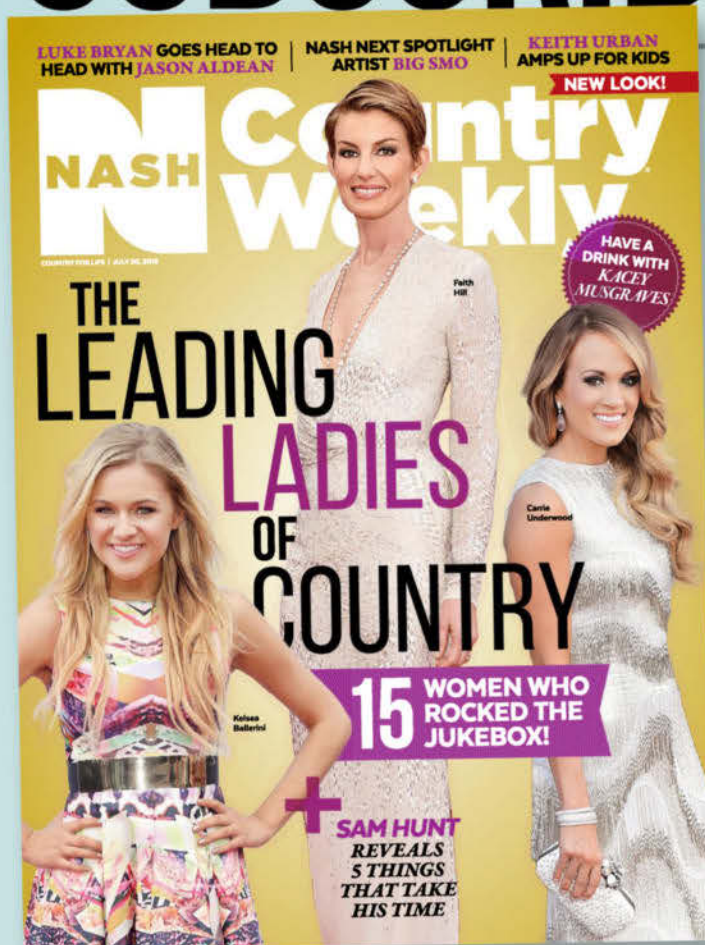
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**NASH Country  
Weekly**

**COUNTRY FOR LIFE**

## FIRST TAKE

### POSE THIS WAY

Country's newest cohort, Aerosmith frontman Steven Tyler, gets ready for his close-up while shooting the video for his debut country single, "Love Is Your Name."









# THE COUNTRY BREW

A SWEET TASTE OF ALL THINGS COUNTRY

*Opening Act*



## TRIPLE PLAY

Historic Fenway Park in Boston is best known as the home turf of the Boston Red Sox, but from Aug. 7 to 9, the **ZAC BROWN BAND** will be making a three-night stand at the iconic ballpark. Along with their catalog of big hits, Zac and his musical teammates will probably try out a few choice covers (like Queen's "Bohemian Rhapsody") during this stop on their blockbuster Jekyll + Hyde Tour. Batter up!

Illustration by Holly Carden



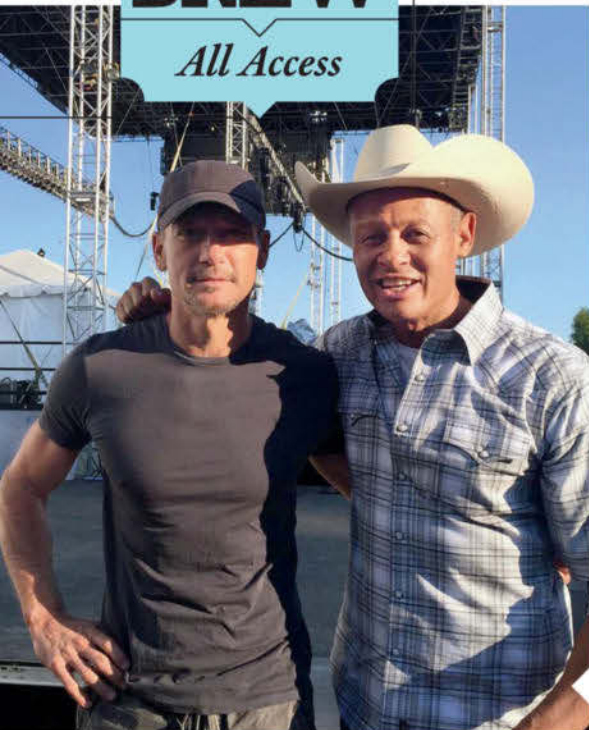


(Above) **PERMANENT MARKERS** Kristian Bush enjoys the finer points of being a country music celebrity, like signing his name to a tattoo on a fan's hip; (below) **FRINGE BENEFITS** Shania Twain rides the most glamorous mechanical bull in existence as part of her Rock This Country Tour kick-off show in Vancouver, B.C.



**BRA COUNTRY** At New York's FarmBorough festival, Luke Bryan looks concerned that he might not be able to fill those cups.





(Left) **HAT ACTS** Tim McGraw (left) takes in a show by the incomparable Neal McCoy; (above) **SHIRT HAPPENS** Members of Martina McBride's fan group Team Martina do it in style; (below left) **TOY STORY** Joey and Rory Feek's daughter, Indiana, is happy to have her hands full; (below) **BELIEVE IN MIRACLES** Brad Paisley and his wife, Kimberly Williams-Paisley, attend the opening of a new Children's Miracle Network location at Williamson Medical Center in Tennessee.



**HE STARTED IT** Neil (left) and Reid Perry fight over who has better hair.





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**VOICES CARRY** at Marty Stuart's Late Night Jam: (clockwise from above) Little Big Town's Phillip Sweet, Chris Stapleton, LBT's Karen Fairchild and Connie Smith; Charley Pride and Marty; Emi Sunshine; Chris; Connie; Shannon and Ashley Campbell; Marty with Aussie guitar wizard Tommy Emmanuel.



Marty Stuart's Late Night Jam photos by Jason Moore





**CHURCH ATTENDANCE** Eric Church (right) was among the all-star list of performers at the Late Night Jam.



(Above) **MONEY HONEY** MusiCares executive director Debbie Carroll announces how much the Jam raised for her organization; (below) **MUSICAL SERMON** The Church Sisters harmonize.



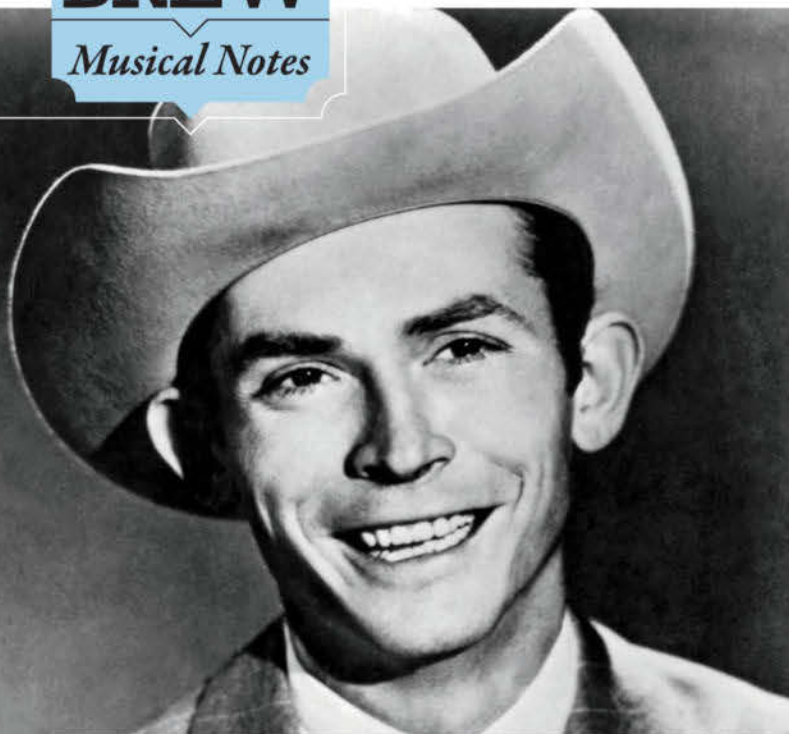
**JOE NICHOLS**



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## FOLLOW THE LIGHT

Sony Pictures Classics has slated the **HANK WILLIAMS** biopic *I Saw the Light* for a Nov. 27 release. The movie, which was filmed in Shreveport, La., in October 2014, stars British-born actor **TOM HIDDLESTON** as Hank and Elizabeth Olsen as his wife, Audrey. The scheduled Thanksgiving weekend release date is indicative of Sony giving the film an added push during awards season and creating some Oscar buzz heading into 2016. Tom, who is best known for his role as Loki in *The Avengers* and *Thor*, will sing multiple Hank songs throughout the film, which was written and produced by Marc Abraham.



*I Saw the Light* chronicles Hank's rise to country stardom and the destructive impact it had on his health and personal life, culminating with his sudden death at the age of 29 in 1953. Recently, biopics have done very well at the Oscars. Eddie Redmayne won for Best Actor in 2015 for his portrayal of Stephen Hawking in *The Theory of Everything*, and Meryl Streep won for Best Actress in 2012 for her performance as Margaret Thatcher in *The Iron Lady*.



## DOWN ON THE FARM

He may be retiring from his spring break shows in Panama City Beach, but **LUKE BRYAN**'s annual Farm Tour is back for a seventh year and showing no signs of slowing down. Probably because money raised at Farm Tour shows stays right in the community in which each show is held and is presented in the form of a scholarship to a local college student from a farming family. That's just Luke's way of celebrating his own rural Georgia roots and his youth spent working on a peanut farm. Tickets are on sale now for the 2015 Farm Tour, which kicks off Sept. 30.

**Sept. 30**  
**Fort Wayne, Ind.**

**Oct. 7**  
**Starkville, Miss.**

**Oct. 1**  
**Lexington, Ky.**

**Oct. 8**  
**Tuscaloosa, Ala.**

**Oct. 2**  
**Knoxville, Tenn.**

**Oct. 9**  
**Macon, Ga.**

**Oct. 3**  
**Columbia, S.C.**

**Oct. 10**  
**Valdosta, Ga.**

## WEDDING WEEK

Two country star weddings in one a week? That's a double-wedding whammy by anyone's standards. **BRANTLEY GILBERT** and his now-wife, **AMBER COCHRAN**, got the ball rolling when they tied the knot in a private ceremony at Brantley's Georgia home on Sunday, June 28, according to industry trade paper *Country Aircheck*. Then, just a few days later, on July 1, Florida Georgia Line's **TYLER HUBBARD** got hitched to his longtime girlfriend, **HAYLEY STOMMEL**. Congratulations!



Tyler  
& Hayley

Brantley  
& Amber



# Steep Canyon's Steep Mileage

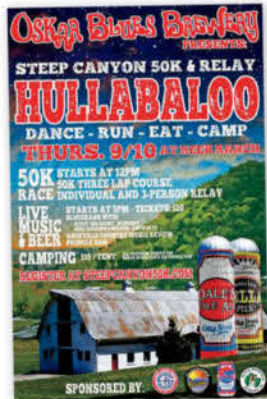


Peter (left) and Charles

**ARE YOU A RUNNER?** Like, a really serious runner who welcomes the idea of several hours of intense work? You might be up for the Steep Canyon 50K & Relay Hullabaloo, organized by **CHARLES HUMPHREY** of the Steep Canyon Rangers and **PETER RIPMASTER** of Black Mountain Running Co. Charles is, as you might have guessed, an avid runner. The race is part of the

10th annual Mountain Song Festival, Sept. 11-13. The 50K (that's roughly 31 miles) trail run will send runners on 10-mile loops around the Oskar Blues Brewery's REEB Ranch in

Hendersonville, N.C. Not up for the full 50K? There's also a relay. Afterward, you can relax your aching legs and body with some bluegrass and a cold beer or two.



## THE FINE KRYSTAL

Country fans are lucky to have not only a great selection of musical artists to satiate our auditory appetites, but also a smorgasbord of culinary artists to satisfy our grumbling tummies. **KRYSTAL KEITH** welcomed us into her kitchen through her *Barneyard Bistro* blog, but in the new web series **PLATE BY PLATE**, she's recreating some of her favorite dishes inspired by restaurants she's visited while touring as an entertainer. Krystal walks us through each step of the preparation of yummy recipes like Hawaiian Hot Dogs, Butternut Squash Tamales and Savory Mushroom Blueberry Tagliatelle. You can find her quick videos now on [greatamericancountry.com](http://greatamericancountry.com).

## Rockin' THE CMA

For four days in June, CMA Music Festival in Nashville was the center of the country music universe. You can relive all the highlights of the downtown fest with the ABC special *CMA Music Festival: Country's Night to Rock*, airing Tuesday night, Aug. 4, at 8 p.m. ET. **LITTLE BIG TOWN** hosts the special, which will include performances by some of country's top stars, interviews and behind-the-scenes glimpses at the festival. Get ready to rock!



# TAKING COVER

**DARIUS RUCKER's**  
four favorite cover songs  
to play at his shows:

- 1 "Purple Rain" by Prince. It's hard to beat that one.
- 2 "Champagne Supernova" by Oasis. I love covering that song. I did it in Europe a couple of times and it was awesome.
- 3 "Family Tradition" by Hank Williams Jr. I've been playing that since the first show I ever played in a band.
- 4 "More Like Her" by Miranda Lambert. I love that song. It's so funny, my daughter can play that song on the ukulele, so she taught it to me.



## BIRD FLEW

It suddenly looks like we've got a flock of birds roosting in country music. First, **DIERKS BENTLEY's** *Riser* album was emblazoned with the symbolic Riser bird, an image in keeping with the album's themes of resilience and strength in the face of struggle.



More recently, **KEITH URBAN** used a bird image on T-shirts for his Raise 'Em Up Tour, named for Keith's uplifting (like a flying bird, you know?) single with **ERIC CHURCH**. Keith's bird has a little more detail than Dierks', looking more like that classic piece of American iconography the bald eagle and lending his shirt a classic rock feel.



And most recently, **JERROD NIEMANN** spread his wings with a new logo featuring (you guessed it) a bird. This image was used to promote a new single called "Blue Bandana," and it has a more military look to it than either Dierks' or Keith's.

Before you know it, country music is going to look a lot like an Alfred Hitchcock movie.





Check out the list below to see what 10 of country's top stars raked in this past year and where they ended up in the rankings.

**#95 Blake Shelton**  
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# Take Our STYLE QUIZ

GO TO [COUNTRYWEEKLY.COM](http://COUNTRYWEEKLY.COM) TO VOTE,  
AND SEE THE RESULTS IN AN UPCOMING ISSUE.

## WOMEN'S POLL

### *Favorite* **STYLE OF JEAN?**



### *Which celebrity hairstyle do you follow?*



### *Which **MAKEUP PRODUCT** can you not live without?*



### **SMOKY** *Eye?* **HOT OR NOT**

### *Which **TYPE OF HAT** do you prefer to sport?*







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SOAP AND WATER  
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- Jana Kramer



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# STYLE QUIZ

## *continued*

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### MEN'S POLL

WHAT *type of underwear* DO YOU PREFER TO WEAR?



BOXERS



BOXER BRIEFS



BRIEFS



BIKINI

COMMANDO

WHAT *type of razor* DO YOU USE TO SHAVE?



ELECTRIC



CARTRIDGE



STRAIGHT

*Clean Shaven*

||||||| OR |||||

**STUBBLE?**

WHAT *type of summer shoe* DO YOU PREFER TO WEAR?



SNEAKER



LOAFER



CROCS



FLIP-FLOPS



BOAT SHOE

*Do you care* ABOUT YOUR FASHION/STYLE?

YES

NO

SOMEWHAT

WHICH MALE COUNTRY STAR'S LOOK DO YOU WANT TO EMULATE?



GEORGE STRAIT



SAM HUNT



TIM MCGRAW



KIP MOORE



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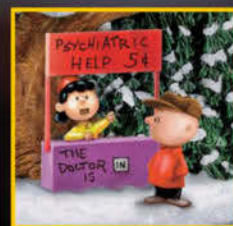


**LIGHTS!  
MUSIC!  
ACTION!**



LOOK! There's motion on **THREE** different levels!

- The *Peanuts* Express makes its merry way around the base
- Skaters crack-the-whip in the middle
- Snoopy and Woodstock steer their Ice Resurfacer



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# Talkin' Turkey

**RHETT AKINS and ANDY GRIGGS have a friendly cook-off in the kitchen with their favorite wild turkey marinades for grilling.**

**PHOTOS BY ASHLEY HYLBERT**

Now that spring turkey season has come to an end, hunters everywhere are hanging their heads. But if they had a good season, they've been left with pounds of wild turkey meat in their freezers and may want to try out some new recipes to shake things up. To help them out, music makers and avid hunters Rhett Akins and Andy Griggs share their favorite wild turkey marinades for grilled turkey.

"This is just something I kind of came up with on my own," Andy says

as he coats his turkey in Kellogg's Corn Flakes Crumbs. "Of course everybody who hunts or fishes typically uses Italian dressing for marinade recipes, so that was the easy part to discover that ingredient!"

"And this is basically how I cook steak," Rhett adds as he prepares his own recipe, one he enjoys cooking on his portable grill for his kids. "The only reason I tried it on the George Foreman Grill is because it was easy. It was real cold outside one time, and I didn't want to go

outside and do it on the real grill. So I did it on the George Foreman, and it turned out awesome. [My son] Thomas Rhett and [my daughter] Kasey literally stand at the George Foreman and eat it off it. I never even have to put it on a plate."

Try one recipe or both. Toss the fowl on the grill until the thickest part reaches an internal temperature of at least 160 degrees. You be the judge in this *Iron Chef*-style cook-off, done the redneck way!

**ALANNA CONAWAY**





## Andy's "He's Dead" Turkey



**Wild turkey breast**  
**Mountain Dew (or a favorite substitute, such as Mike's Margarita Classic)**  
**Teriyaki sauce**  
**Italian dressing**  
**Tony Chachere's More Spice Seasoning**  
**Honey (or beaten egg wash)**  
**Kellogg's Corn Flakes Crumbs**

Cut turkey into strips.  
 Pound out turkey using a kitchen mallet.  
 Place turkey strips into a zip-lock bag and marinate for two hours in Mountain Dew, teriyaki sauce and Italian dressing.  
 Remove turkey from bag and sprinkle with Tony Chachere's More Spice Seasoning.  
 Brush meat with honey (or egg wash) and cover with Kellogg's Corn Flakes crumbs.

They may not be Iron Chefs, but singer/songwriters Rhett Akins and Andy Griggs know a thing or two about grilling wild turkey. The avid hunters add a few culinary twists to traditional recipes and techniques: Andy likes to coat his bird in Kellogg's Corn Flakes (top left), while Rhett keeps his turkey tender by cooking it on a George Foreman Grill (left).

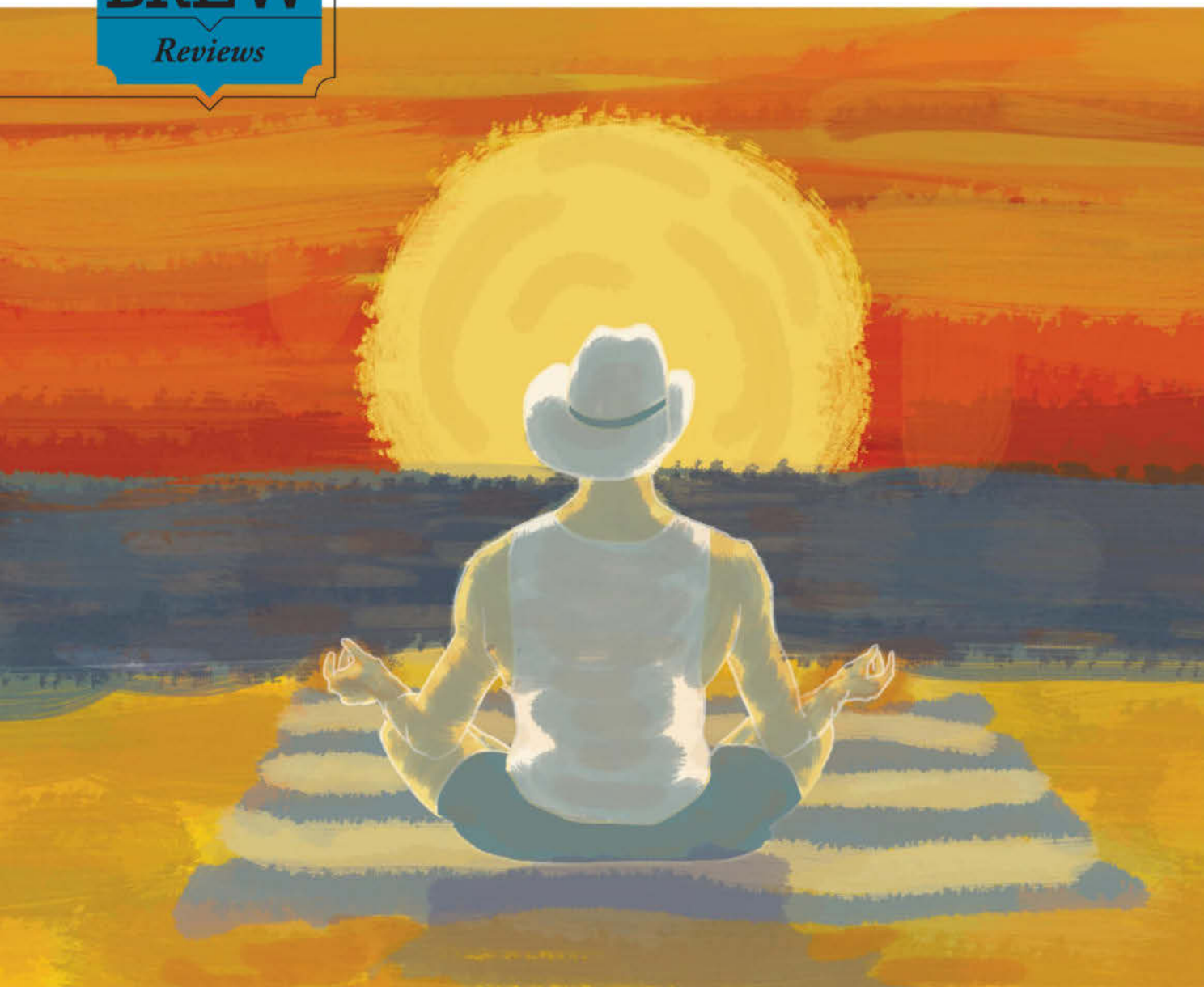
## Rhett's "Gobble It Up"

**Wild turkey breast**  
**Lemon pepper salt**  
**Lawry's Seasoned Salt**  
**Italian dressing**

Cut turkey breast into large chunks.



zip-lock bag.  
 Pour Italian dressing over turkey and keep in refrigerator for at least one day.



## Singles

### Kenny Chesney “Save It for a Rainy Day”

BLUE CHAIR/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE

A

There's a bit of a tonal uncertainty at play here, as it's part bluegrass, part folk and a big helping of country wrapped into about three and a half minutes. The tune might remind some (likely of a certain age) of Elton John's "Captain Fantastic and the Brown Dirt Cowboy," not so much

in subject matter but rather in the melodic structure and the way it builds from its folky intro to the ultimate payoff. It's an intriguing song because of Kenny's what-me-worry, devil-may-care interpretation of the lyrics. Sure, the guy is coming off a failed relationship, but in his eyes, it's simply too nice a summer afternoon to be angst-ridden about it. There are other pleasures out there calling his name. *The beer's too cold to be thinking about you*, Kenny succinctly sums up. If he wants to wring

his hands (or his neck), well, that can wait until the next rainy day. There's a nice overlay of instruments as well, with a fine representation of mandolin, B3 organ and guitar all complementing one another. Looks like Kenny can count on another smash.

**LONG STORY SHORT:** We've heard the message before, but the looping melody and Kenny's vocal prevent this from descending into a valley of clichés.

**BOB PAXMAN**



## A Thousand Horses “(This Ain’t No) Drunk Dial”

REPUBLIC NASHVILLE

**B**

You aren’t likely to ever get a schmoopy, goopy love song from a group of hairy

dudes, but A Thousand Horses found a way to slow things down a bit and confess true and everlasting love without having to surrender their man card in their new single, “Drunk Dial.” A chorus of “whoa-oh-ohs” is intoxicating in this morning-after, not-so-tipsy confes-

sional. And while the production can get a little overwhelming at moments, drowning out the band’s harmonies, the glimpses of stripped-down, almost acoustic breaks, especially in the last few bars, give the tune a nice kick.

**TAMMY RAGUSA**



## Clare Dunn “Move On”

MCA NASHVILLE

**B+**

Radio play or not, country’s women are steadily putting out some of the genre’s most compelling stuff. Like Clare Dunn, whose new single, “Move On,” and its cutting-edge production of sawtooth synths feels primed for multiformat success. Clare assumes an empowered role for the shy guy pal running through her dreams, giving him the green light to make a move. Her purring, low-register delivery in the verses (think Rihanna) will have you Googling the lyrics, but the massive chorus hook will have you shouting at the top of your lungs—even if you aren’t sure what you’re singing.

**JON FREEMAN**



## James Otto “Somewhere Tonight”

BLASTER

**B+**

It’s been entirely too long since James Otto’s husky pipes graced radio airwaves with the über-sexy 2008 hit “Just Got Started Lovin’ You.” Why the absence? Who knows! It certainly isn’t for lack of talent, as proven by his new single, “Somewhere Tonight,” which is a super-happy summer song complete with tinkling banjo and lyrics that evoke the requisite images of bonfires, fireworks and all the sparks of falling in love. Light-handed production keeps the focus on James’ rangy, rumbling voice, and there are plenty of hands-in-the-air “whoa-oh-ohs” for your singalong pleasure.

**T.R.**



## Striking Matches “Miss Me More”

I.R.S. NASHVILLE

**B+**

Dueling string-driven duo Striking Matches—comprised of Justin Davis and Sarah Zimmermann—is back with picks at the ready with a new single, “Miss Me More,” from their debut studio album, *Nothing but the Silence*. Sarah’s stringed instrument of choice for this song is her trusty mandolin, which she crisply picks while Justin goes to town on his electric guitar. The he-said-she-said breakup tune features the duo seamlessly trading leads and harmonizing on the chorus, plus there’s a stellar mandolin solo toward the end, because, well, women always get the last word . . . and note.

**JIM CASEY**



# Courtney Cole

**WHEN**

June 16

**SETLIST**

"Ladylike"  
 "Fall Like Rain"  
 "Drunk"  
 "Shady"

**NCW FAVORITE**

"Ladylike"

**WHAT'S NEW**

Mandeville, La., native Courtney Cole grew up singing but initially started in the music business by working for a publishing company and record label. Now she's made the transition to full-time performer, and her debut EP, *#NoFilter*, is available for streaming.

**CLEANING LESSONS**

"My mom would always say, in the car seat I was back there matching notes with the radio. She used to vacuum and I would match the pitch of the vacuum cleaner. I would sing it, and then once I got good at matching the pitches I would actually be able to figure out harmonies, so I would harmonize with it. And I remember doing that very well. So I loved when she would clean, and that makes cleaning fun for me now."

**LEAVING LOUISIANA**

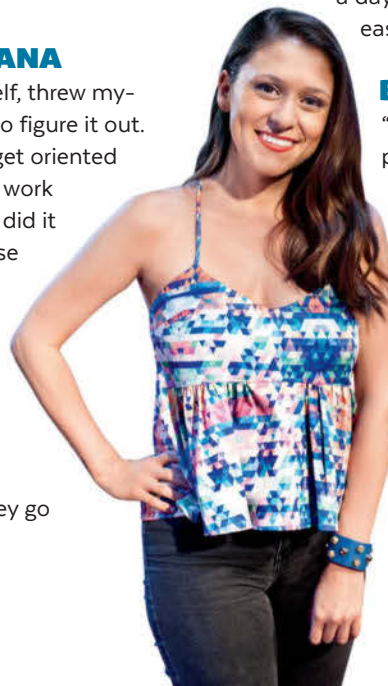
"I came up here by myself, threw myself into it and just had to figure it out. It took me a little bit to get oriented with everything. I had to work my way up. I'm so glad I did it that way, though, because I learned so much at the record label and the publishing company just seeing the artists and how they respond to things and how they go about doing things, and songwriters, how they go about crafting songs."

**MADE FOR THE STAGE**

"I didn't feel like I was good at a desk job. It takes a very special person to be able to be organized and do a desk job, and it wasn't for me. I always wanted to be a songwriter; I always wanted to be an artist. It had already been several years; I was ready to jump into it. Once they told me I was able to be a songwriter, I was marking out my schedule and I was writing two, three times a day, just going for it. It was an easy transition for me."

**BE YOURSELF**

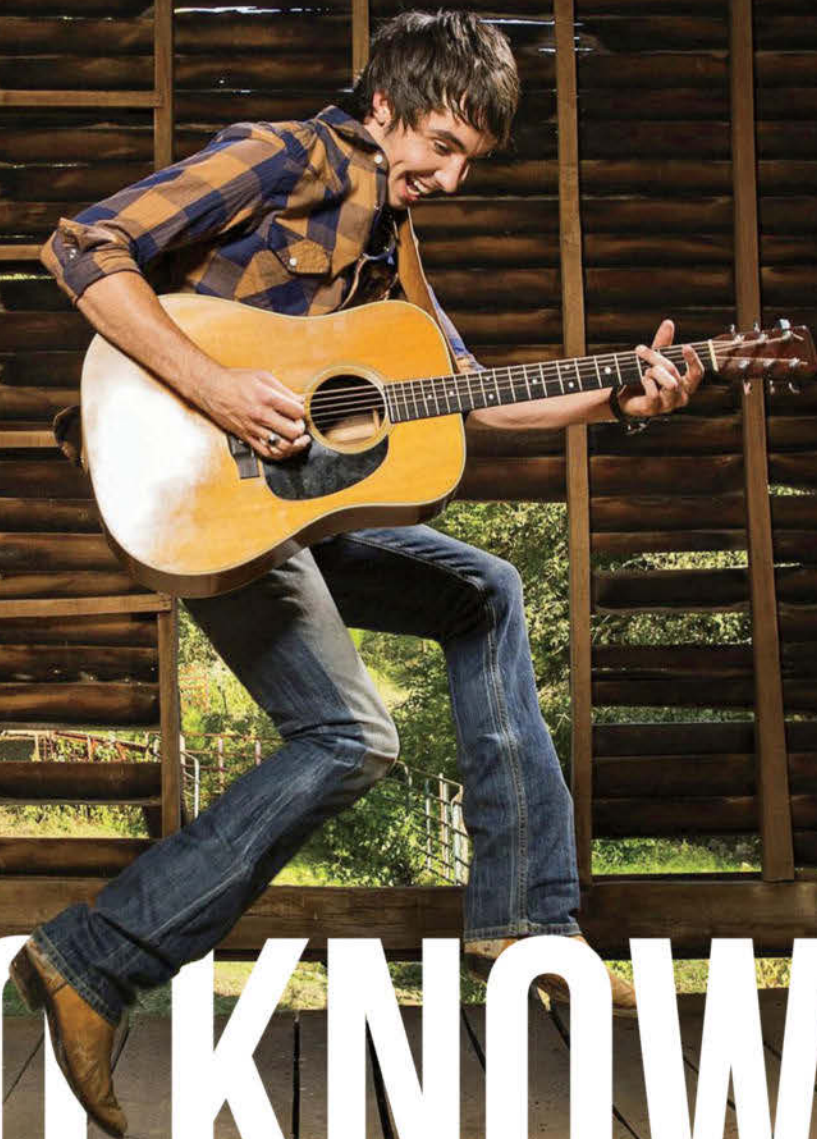
"'Ladylike,' that song is so 100 percent me. A lot of times, especially being an artist or being in the public eye—women—we all feel like we have to be so put together. I got the idea for 'Ladylike' because I was recording in the studio and burped in the microphone. That's just the kind of girl I am. It's not anything very put together, but at the same time it's still beautiful."





# NASH **NEXT**

**NEW ARTIST SPOTLIGHT**



# MO KNOWS

**MO PITNEY** is acutely aware of what he wants out of his career and his life.

STORY BY BOB PAXMAN



**M**o Pitney might not call himself an “old soul,” but he matches most of the criteria. He’s just turned 22, but you’re more likely to find him hunting and fishing (with his three dogs, no less) at his Tennessee retreat rather than tailgating and partying down with his buddies. Classic country is the music of choice, and he holds a particular affinity for the freewheeling songwriting style of Roger Miller, who died a few

months before Mo was even born.

Mostly, though, the youngster from Cherry Valley, Ill., is what people like to call a “grounded” individual, exhibiting a keen sense of his own personality and where he wants to find himself in life. And it might surprise you, in a pleasant, refreshing sort of way, to discover where Mo’s priorities lie to make this a “mo better” world. Hint: No. 1 records are not necessarily high on the list.

“Things are definitely happening for me,” Mo begins, and he’s surely cor-

rect. He’s just released his new single, “Country,” co-written with Hall of Famer Bill Anderson and top songwriter Bobby Tomberlin, played the Grand Ole Opry on numerous occasions and got booked on several big-time country festivals. “But I don’t think I ever tried to plan what my career would look like. It’s not about praise or even having No. 1 songs. My goal is always to play music and make a living doing that. I have put most of my energy into treating people right and staying true to myself and my faith.”



Mo courtesy Hedley Entertainment; personal photos courtesy Mo Pitney social media



This is not to dismiss success in any of its forms. It's just that Mo's vision of "success" might not fit everyone else's definition. "I struggle a lot with the question of what 'success' is," Mo will concede. "There are a lot of people who do well and have lots of money and fame. But if you diagnose their happiness, they might not seem as successful. I want success in a different way."

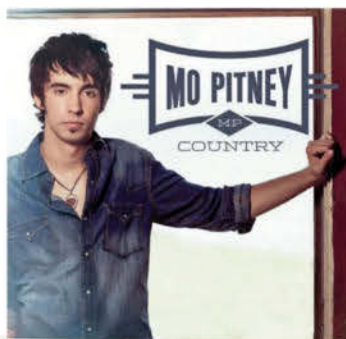
That's hardly the message one usually hears from artists in the current generation, where "me" dominates the

message. Perhaps one could attribute Mo's ecumenical approach to his upbringing in the small burgh of Cherry Valley, where he was raised.

Cherry Valley lies just outside Rockford, where Mo was actually born, not terribly far from the Wisconsin border-line. When Mo talks of his childhood, he remembers an existence that, while not quite idyllic, is almost Mark Twainesque in its simplicity. "Right out my back door was a lake that was pretty easy to get to," Mo says warmly. "I'd

ride my bike out there with a fishing rod on each handlebar." Goodness, he really is today's Tom Sawyer.

Days were spent loving the outdoors and all its activity, from fishing to hunting turkey and even pheasant, which is an entirely different enterprise, according to Mo. "The way you hunt them is not the same as hunting turkey," he explains matter-of-factly. "You actually go to the pheasant, where turkeys come to you. Pheasants hide under the grass, and your hunting dogs



(Clockwise from above) Mo with his "Country" co-writer Bill Anderson; hunting with his three dogs; on the Grand Ole Opry stage; kicking back in the studio; playing Davy Crockett as a kid; cover art for "Country"





## THE ROCKFORD FILE

What do **MO PITNEY** and rock's **CHEAP TRICK** have in common?

Sometimes, it pays to have enough quick recall to pull out trivial facts at the drop of a name. When Mo Pitney related to *Nash Country Weekly* that his birthplace was Rockford, Ill., it triggered an immediate question from our end.

"Isn't that where [rock band] Cheap Trick is from?" came our query. To which Mo replied, "How did you know that? But yes, the band formed in Rockford and worked out of there. I know that [lead guitarist] Rick Nielsen is from there. He is the one I know the most about."

And yes, there is a Cheap Trick story in Mo's repertoire. "The guitar that I play—my dad actually bought it from Rick's dad at his music store. It's a 1967 Martin. That's the guitar you'll see me play most often."

And once in a while, Mo will throw Cheap Trick's classic rock standard "I Want You to Want Me" into his set. Got to take care of the homeboys, right?

smell the birds and point to them. The bird flies up and you shoot the bird out of the air and the dog retrieves it."

Indoor pursuits, however, soon took over. Because of his musically inclined dad, a bluegrass player and aficionado, Mo became drawn to country music, avidly listening to the sounds of Johnny Cash, Merle Haggard and other pioneers. "I am probably the biggest Roger Miller fan you'll ever see," Mo says, laughing. "I have his boxed set and have probably listened to that more than any other music in my life."

Music has forever been a dominant life force, ever since he can remember. "I started playing drums when I was 8," Mo recalls. "I never really looked at myself as a singer. Then, one day I came across a Johnny Cash album that my dad had, which was *Johnny Cash at San Quentin*, and I ended up sitting

in my basement learning a bunch of songs from that record. I played guitar and sang a little bit"

One fascination led to another. In his mid-teens, Mo attended an open-mic night and came across a bluegrass picker playing the banjo. "I told my dad that's what I wanted to do, play the banjo," Mo remembers. "So, I did that for a couple years. Then, I picked up the guitar again."

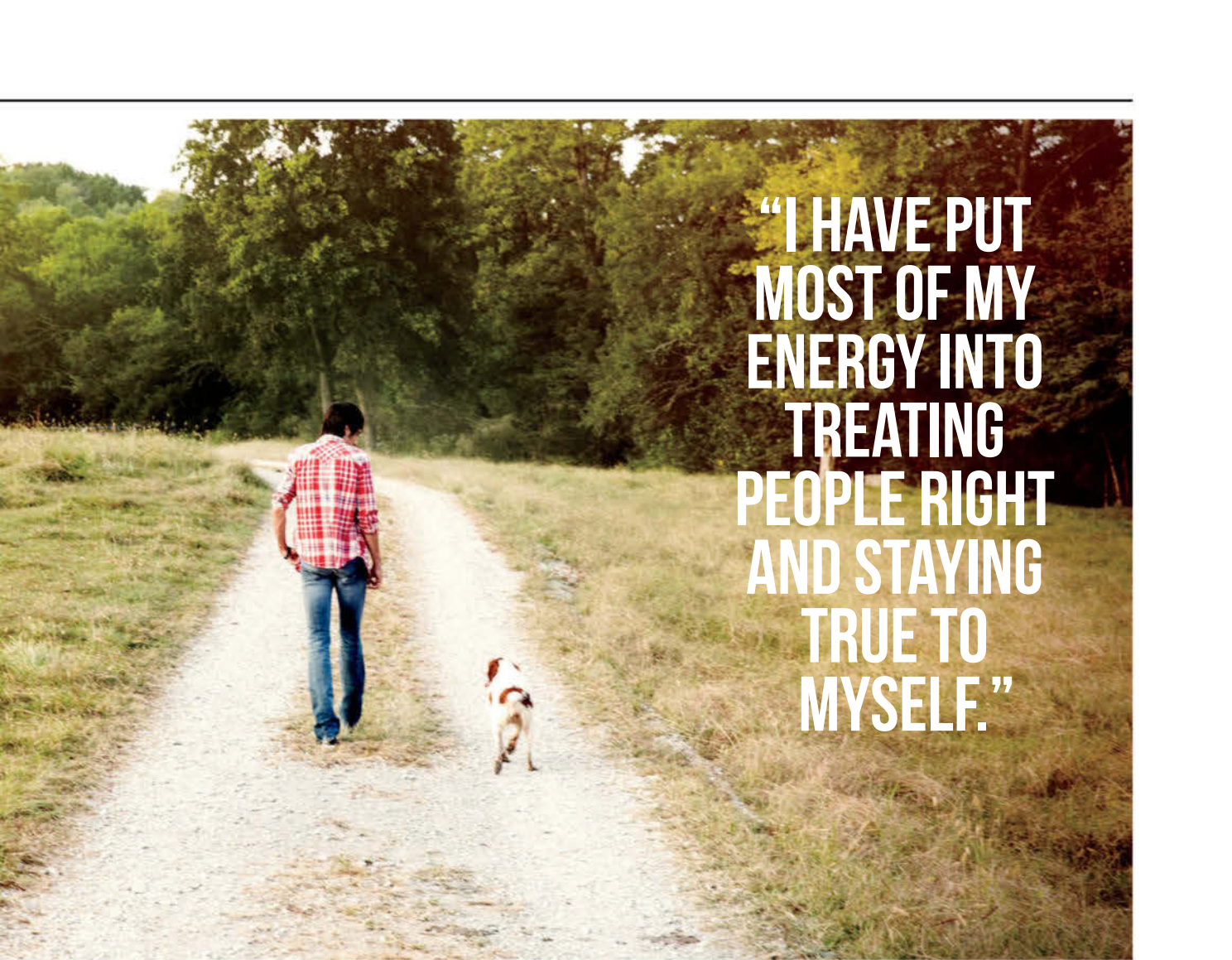
Mo spent part of his teenage years traveling and performing at bluegrass festivals, while being home-schooled at the same time. Around age 18, as best as he can figure, he developed an interest in the career of the late Keith Whitley. "He started as a bluegrass guy, playing in Ralph Stanley's band when he was just a kid, basically," Mo says in an admiring tone. "I just really studied his career path. Listening to his voice helped me transition over to country

music. I started realizing what a great country song is from his records." Indeed, Mo has been known to occasionally pepper his live set with "Miami, My Amy" or other Whitley classics.

Mo forged his own musical path when he moved to Nashville a few years ago, landing a publishing contract and subsequent record deal. His single "Country" is currently climbing the charts and stands as a fairly accurate mission statement on his entire philosophy of life. "Country" is just as much a state of mind as it is a particular genre of music, at least in Mo's way of thinking. The song unwound from a conversation between Mo, songwriter Bobby Tomberlin, one of Mo's early champions, and the great Bill Anderson.

"I was talking with Bobby one day," Mo says, "and he told me he had a friend who really wanted to write with me. He



A photograph of a man in a red and white plaid shirt and jeans walking away on a dirt path. A small dog is running alongside him. The path is surrounded by tall grass and trees in the background.

**"I HAVE PUT  
MOST OF MY  
ENERGY INTO  
TREATING  
PEOPLE RIGHT  
AND STAYING  
TRUE TO  
MYSELF."**

said, 'His name is Whisperin' Bill Anderson.' Well, obviously, I know who that is and that was kind of unbelievable." The three kicked off their writing session trading thoughts on life in general and the meaning of "country" in particular.

"We got on the subject on the state of country music and what we thought about it," Mo recalls. "It kind of all morphed into a song about country living and the word 'country' and what it stands for. Between that and all of us talking about our families, we broke 'country' down into three parts—the music, faith and patriotism."

He has performed "Country" on the Grand Ole Opry, but a different song, a whimsical number called "Clean Up on Aisle Five," was the one that ratcheted up the Opry crowd during his debut appearance there last year. Again, his down-home humility becomes

quite evident when he talks about that game-changing debut. "I went to the Grand Ole Opry many times," Mo says. "I don't know why, but I never thought I'd be qualified to actually play on the Grand Ole Opry. It never entered my mind. I was just shocked when they called and asked me to be there. I played 'Clean Up on Aisle Five' and got a standing ovation." He was able to share the experience with his parents, who made the drive from Illinois to witness their boy's magic night.

As he notes, things are definitely happening, and moving in a forward direction. But that hasn't put even the smallest dent in Mo's offstage life. He lives a mostly secluded lifestyle in Ashland City, Tenn., north of Nashville, where he can get on board his boat and be alone with his thoughts.

"I love living out there," Mo says with

a wistful tone to his voice. "You can go out the back door and hunt and fish. I can put my boat right out there on the Cumberland River about two miles from my house." When he's out hunting, his three spaniels, Duke, Duchess and Daisy, run right alongside. What could be more Rockwellian?

Next up for Mo, if all goes swimmingly with the single, is a full-length album, which he hopes to release in the fall. But he's not sweating the details. The album will hit when it's time and not one minute before. Such patience requires considerable faith, which Mo has in biblical plentitude.

"I really allow God to guide my life," Mo says without hesitation. "If I stay true to my music, and sing and write what means something to me, then I should be all right. Wherever I end up, that's where I'm supposed to be." ■





# FULLHO

**REBA McENTIRE AND  
BROOKS & DUNN**  
UNITE FOR A SERIES  
OF SHOWS IN LAS VEGAS.

**STORY BY VERNELL HACKETT**





# USE

**THOUGH THEY JOKE** that money was the motivator in signing on for a residency at The Colosseum at Caesars Palace, Reba and cohorts Kix Brooks and Ronnie Dunn were clearly having a blast during their first run of shows together in Las Vegas.

"We liked the idea of getting back together after touring together in the '90s," Reba says. "We wanted to make a big explosive event out of it, have something to talk about and have fun."

Known as Reba, Brooks & Dunn: Together in Vegas, this run was a little different from the shows they co-headlined, as Kix explains. "We talked about how much fun we had then, but how different it could be here. Before, we had 21 trucks and 19 buses. Here, we can put together an amazing production because we don't have to move it every day. We're real excited about this show. I think our fans will dig it."

The entertainers put together a production of 30 hits that clocked in around two hours. In addition to performing separately, Reba and Brooks & Dunn performed many of their biggest hits together. The three opened with Brooks & Dunn's "Play Something Country" and closed with the duo's "Only in America," and in between shared Reba's "Why Haven't I Heard From You," B&D's "Put a Girl in It" and Reba's "Little Rock."

The set list was based on their hits, songs they thought would get a good reaction from the audience and another very important factor. "I picked songs I like to sing and so did Kix and Ronnie. Then we blended them all together," Reba explains. "It took us a while to get it down to where it was flowing and exciting, and still had heart and emotion to it."

Kix reveals that he and Ronnie are doing something they have never done before—a medley of hits. "When we were touring we could put together a good hour and a half or two hours of our songs, but here we had to cut that in half," he says. "When we had 10 songs left that we wanted to do, we decided to do a medley. It





Ronnie (right) and Kix wow the Vegas crowd with Reba. The gang performed 30 hits during their two-hour kick-off show.



was fun working it all out.”

All three agree that the hardest part about the show was the staging. Reba’s husband, Narvel Blackstock, helped put together a presentation that they all liked, except for one minor thing.

“The stage is big, with a 100-foot video, so it had to be designed in a way that it could be closed in to appear smaller when necessary,” Ronnie explains. “The first draft Narvel brought us, there were wings on each side that had big diamonds on them, and we didn’t care for that.”

“You didn’t care for that,” Reba interjects playfully.

Ronnie ignores the gentle ribbing and continues. “So they asked what we thought it should be and Reba kept saying to give it a cool Ralph Lauren vibe,” he says. “One of us came up with translucent Mylar cowhides, and they did it and it was great.”

The three have been playing shows in Vegas for 30 years now and they’ve seen everything from complacent crowds to audiences that made them feel like they were in an arena, specifically when they performed at the Hilton during the week of the Professional Rodeo Cowboy Association finals.

“I think the crowds [at The Colos-

seum] are real fans—they listen to what you say, sing along with your songs and laugh at your jokes that aren’t really funny,” Kix recalls. “It’s not like an amphitheater show, where they are already drunk by the time your show starts at 10. People are digging the show, they are having fun. We have a chance to engage with the audience and do our thing. It really is a lot of fun.”

Reba and Brooks & Dunn have completed their first run of shows at The Colosseum. Their current schedule has them returning to the venue for another series of shows in December 2015. **NCW**



# Sentinels of the Sky

*Glow in the Dark*

First-ever fiber optic illuminated wall plaque that glows in the dark

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Showcases Cynthia Fisher's captivating artwork on hand-stretched faux leather

Wolf constellation glows with 14 fiber optic lights

The elusive wolf's shadowy presence and a luminous, starlit sky have forever captured the human imagination. Now, for the first time ever, the renowned Cynthia Fisher's captivating wolf art dramatizes a stretched, faux leather illuminating wall plaque that glows in the dark with starlit brilliance. Entirely hand-crafted in the Native American style, the *Sentinels of the Sky* Illuminating Wall Plaque is an outstanding value only from The Bradford Exchange.

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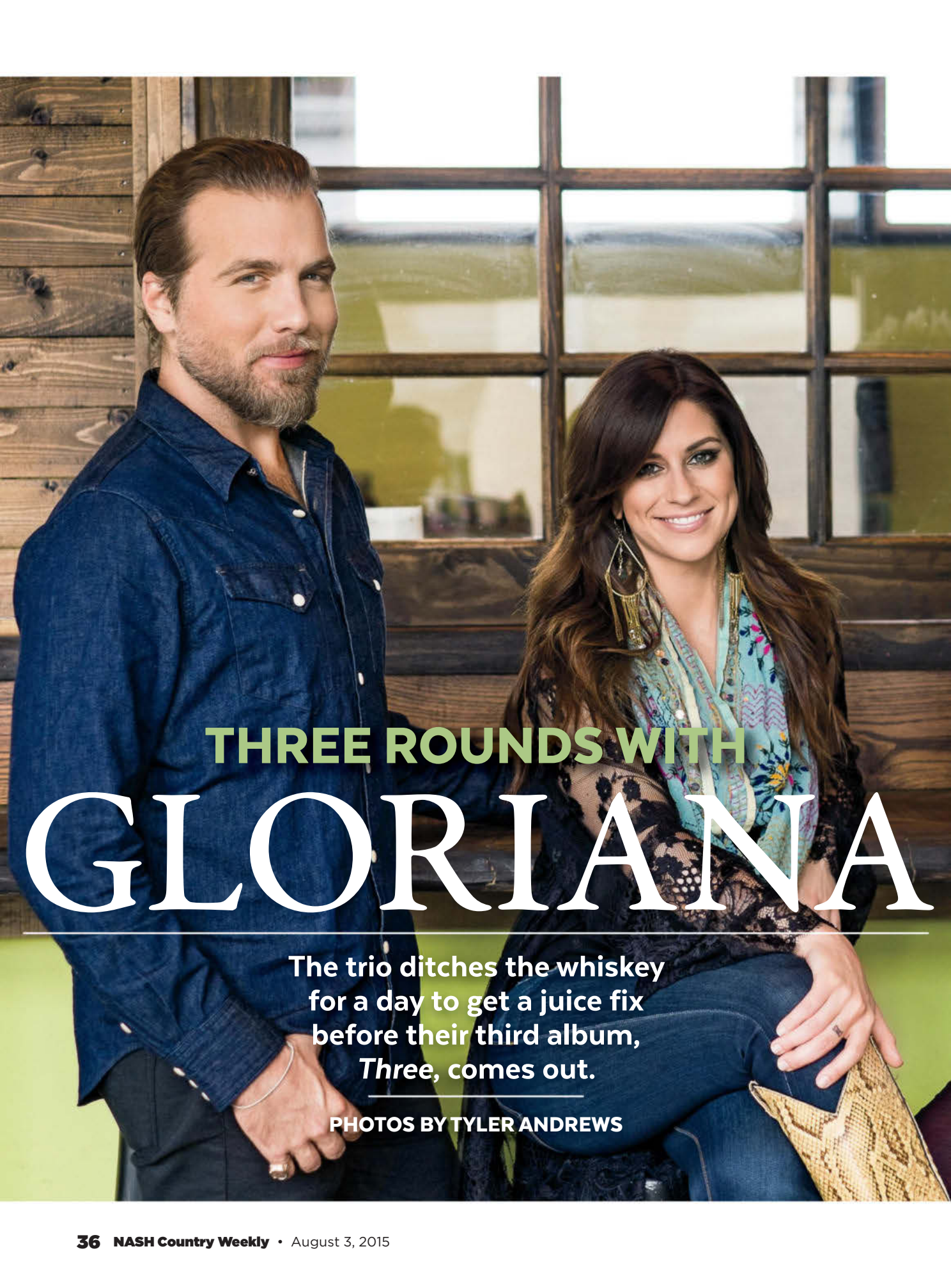
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# THREE ROUNDS WITH GLORIANA

The trio ditches the whiskey for a day to get a juice fix before their third album, *Three*, comes out.

PHOTOS BY TYLER ANDREWS





Gloriana's Tom Gossin (left), Rachel Reinert and Michael Gossin; (inset) Juice Bar in Franklin, Tenn.

The number three has become very significant to Gloriana's Rachel Reinert and brothers Tom and Michael Gossin over the past few years, having started life as a quartet before becoming a trio. They have spent the past three years working on their third album, fittingly titled *Three*. To keep the theme going, *Nash Country Weekly* recently caught up with the trio to get the scoop on their new music and favorite ways to stay healthy over three juice rounds at local hot spot Juice Bar in Franklin, Tenn.

ALANNA CONAWAY



#### YOU COME HERE OFTEN?

**RACHEL:** I love juices. I wish that I had a juicer, but I usually hit the Turnip Truck here in town. I go there all the time. They've got a juice called the Green Lemonade that I am really fond of there. This place is great, too!

**MICHAEL:** This is my first time in a juice bar ever.

**RACHEL:** This is probably the only type of bar that Mike is not fond of!

**MICHAEL:** I'm more of a dive, biker bar or restaurant . . . a small hole-in-the-wall, good whiskey and good beer selection kind of guy, but I will say this. This is really super-cool.

**TOM:** Do you feel healthier just being in here?

**MICHAEL:** I do!

#### HITTING RESET

**RACHEL:** I've done a three-day juice cleanse twice, and it's hard. For me, it's more about getting all the toxins out, because you put the weight back on immediately. It's harder than you



# THE JUICE IS LOOSE

*A hot summer night is the perfect time for a refreshing glass of freshly juiced fruits and veggies.*

*Here's a favorite recipe from NCW's editorial staff.*

- 1 bunch of kale
- 3 large carrots
- 3 green apples, cored
- ¼ of a pineapple, skinned
- 1 small piece of ginger (3 oz.)

Run the ingredients through a juicer, chill and enjoy. Makes two to three servings.



## GLORIANA CONTINUED

think because you're thinking about food constantly! Our lives revolve around food. You just notice it that much more, in ads or whatever. It's really hard to do. But you definitely don't want to put anything bad in your body after you do that.

**TOM:** I did a 10-day Master Cleanse when we first started the band. That was because 10 years prior to that, I had been playing in smoky bars, drinking whiskey and doing all sorts of bad things to myself. They say that stuff sticks around in your body forever. So

*“I like to think like, what if I was lost in the woods or on a deserted island, what kind of food would be available to me? It's a lot of fruits, vegetables and nuts.”*

## TOM GOSSIN

you do one of these cleanses, and it's like a reset to your organs. I really did feel amazing. Now I just wait until I'm really hungry and then eat something sensible and smaller, and just wait until I'm hungry again. I only eat when I'm hungry. That's important.

## STAYING HEALTHY

**RACHEL:** It's important to drink lots of water, exercise as often as possible and eat right. A lot of that consists of





trying to eat things that are organic. I try to avoid gluten, but I don't always because I love pizza. If there's ever a gluten-free option, I lean that way. Alcohol is probably our downfall.

**MICHAEL:** I was going to say, beer, pizza and hot dogs.

**TOM:** Are those your three health tips?

**MICHAEL:** Yeah!

**TOM:** I really don't like working out, so I just eat really, really healthy with all natural stuff. I like to think like, what if I was lost in the woods or on a deserted island, what kind of food would be available to me? It's a lot of fruits, vegetables and nuts. But my secret health weapon when you need to [pull it together] for, like, a photo shoot or a video, is to eat a whole watermelon the day before. It's something somebody told me a while ago. It's good for you because of all the water, but there are also enzymes that make you look skinnier and all that.



### THREE TIMES THE FUN

**RACHEL:** It's been three years since we put out the last album. It's our third album. There are three of us. So that's why we decided to go with the title, *Three*. We started out this album with the idea of it being an album that we could tour with and play live. There are a lot of up-tempo songs, and everything is real fun. There's something for everybody. It's just a real feel-good album.

**MICHAEL:** We wrote over 100 songs for this record. We ended up whittling it down to 12. We recorded this in five different states, all in between the Rascal Flatts and Sheryl Crow tour



**NCW's Alanna Conaway chats with Gloriana before the troupe toasts to good health (below).**



last year. So we'd stop in a city where we had a little bit of extra time in, a producer would fly in, and we'd rent some random studio or house and track. That's kind of how we did this record, all around the country. It was a whole new process for us. We want-

ed to make a record with more up-tempo songs, like Rach was saying. A record that you can blast in your car, with a roll down the windows, summer festival while you're holding your drink up in the air kind of vibe to it. We are very proud. **NCW**



# COUNTRY'S BEST- DRESSED MAN

Whether casual on a stage or dressed to the nines on a red carpet, **Tim McGraw** is setting the bar very high for the men of country music.

BY THE NASH COUNTRY WEEKLY EDITORIAL STAFF

## **CLOTHES DON'T MAKE THE MAN,**

but they can sure make the man a lot of fun to look at. And stylistically speaking, Tim McGraw has come a long way, baby! The "Shotgun Rider" singer has always been on top of the trends for men's fashion, but as he has grown and matured he has also developed a timeless and classic sense of style that works both for his trim and angular body and his positions as a Hollywood actor and one of country music's leading stars. No doubt about it, Tim McGraw is the king of country couture.

Speaking of his trim and angular body, heck yeah, we love to see Tim's abs when he takes his shirt off—but, boy howdy, can the man wear a suit.





When he does, Tim opts for slender European cuts in crisp fabrics and subtle textures that don't distract from his natural good looks. He often accessorizes with retro skinny ties or a vest that further accentuates his healthy, well-sculpted physique. Once he hits that stage, though, it's snug, well-worn denim and body-conscious tees, occasionally without sleeves, or well-tailored button-downs with the sleeves rolled up as far as they'll go before they hit his rock-hard biceps.

Every girl is crazy about a sharp-dressed man, and Faith Hill, as if she weren't elegant enough on her own, has one heck-uva human accessory when Tim dons a tuxedo to stroll the red carpet for an awards show or movie premiere. Whether in a black tie or black cowboy hat or a turtleneck and beanie, we doubt you'll ever find this natty dresser with a barbecue stain on his white T-shirt.

Tim isn't the only one who is coming into his own when it comes to fashion. Country gents are becoming quite dapper, whether on the red carpet, the stage or at the beach. And they're defining their own signature style with personal touches that keep them as unique as their music. Take a look.





# CLASSIC

**Your mother  
would approve.**

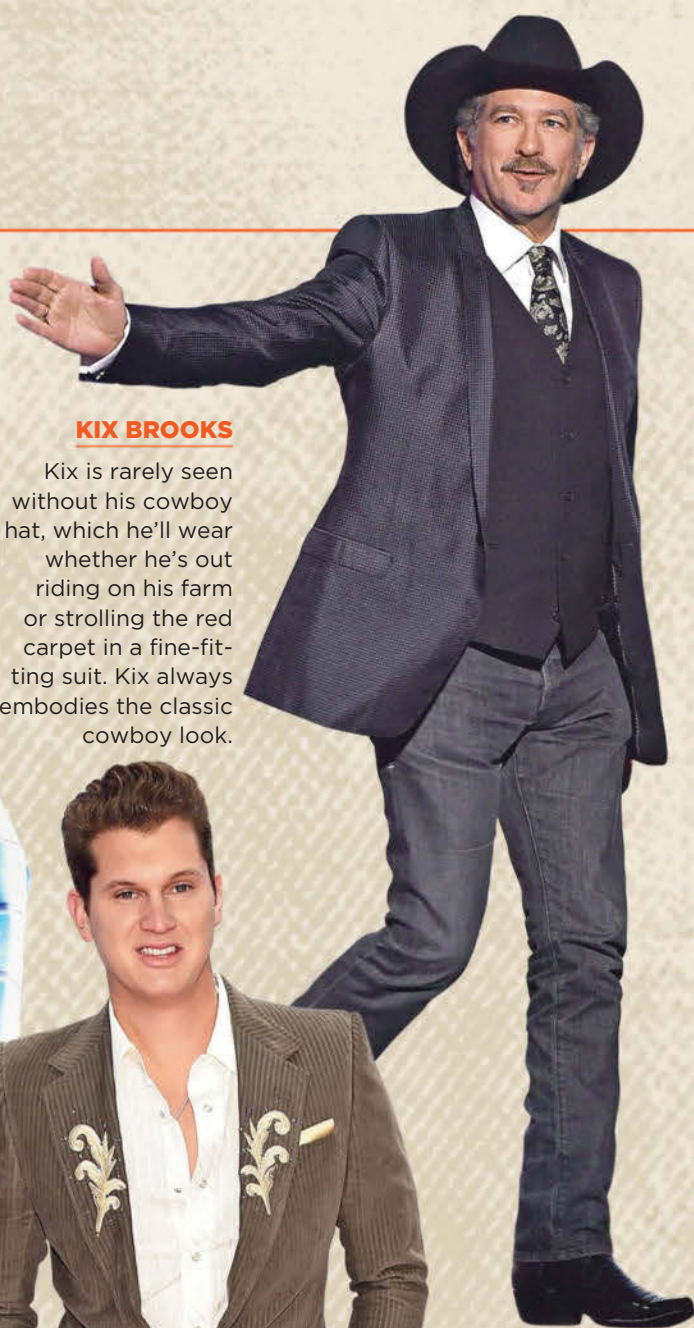


## **GEORGE STRAIT**

Cowboy hat, starched Western shirt and jeans—we've come to expect it from George, to paraphrase one of his hit singles. And he looks so good in them, mainly because George is a real cowboy who still works the land and loves to ride and rope. No pretentiousness here.

## **KIX BROOKS**

Kix is rarely seen without his cowboy hat, which he'll wear whether he's out riding on his farm or strolling the red carpet in a fine-fitting suit. Kix always embodies the classic cowboy look.



## **JON PARDI**

Jon's music is heavily influenced by the California-inspired sounds of Buck Owens and Dwight Yoakam, so naturally his look encompasses a little of both. Jon favors classic Western wear suits from famed designer Manuel, and they're a perfect fit.





# THE GOD-FATHERS

**OGs who paved the way for the modern day.**

## **PORTER WAGONER**

Whether he was decked out in one of his wagon-wheel-themed Nudie suits or a rhinestone-encrusted Manuel, Porter Wagoner and his blond pompadour owned every stage he set foot on, which is one reason he was nicknamed Mr. Grand Ole Opry.



## **JOHNNY CASH**

Johnny Cash's garb may not have been the most vibrant, but he made his somber style seem effortless, often sporting all-black ensembles, including his signature black trench coat later in his career. He tried to carry off a little darkness on his back because he was the Man in Black.



## **BUCK OWENS**

Before he became known for playing a backward-overall-wearing cowpoke on *Hee Haw*, Buck Owens was a duded-up honky-tonker who donned Nudie suits while ushering in the Bakersfield Sound movement with his complementarily dressed Buckaroos.



# RED CARPET

**Country gone to town.**

## **FRANKIE BALLARD**

Frankie has a flair for the bold and vintage, as evidenced by his custom-made Manuel suit with Native American patterns, or the extra-long red velvet duster he wore to the ACM Awards in 2015.

## **BRETT ELDREDGE**

Like his hero Frank Sinatra, Brett adds a certain polished cool to his red carpet look: crisp suits in a variety of blues, bowtie-adorned tuxedos or just ditching the rules entirely and going sans tie.

## **DIERKS BENTLEY**

No need to call the po-po, because Dierks' fashion sense ain't no crime. At formal events, you can expect to see the "Riser" singer in an immaculately tailored suit, from a more conservative patterned gray to a bold, contrast-heavy white on white.





# CASUAL

**Keeping it simple,  
keeping it comfortable.**

## LUKE BRYAN

Luke has turned the baseball cap into a fashion statement, making it an integral part of his overall look. The shorts and sandals that he often wears onstage contribute to that boy-next-door charm.

## KEITH URBAN

The casual look is perfect for Keith, whose overall appearance says "casual" but not slovenly, as he tends to sport pants that hang lower on the hips and dark-colored shirts. But he also knows when to bring out the style, as evidenced by his red carpet appearances, where he's usually strutting his stuff in well-tailored suits.

## EASTON CORBIN

Easton is one of the better-dressed guys in country, favoring jackets and even the occasional tie. But he always manages to look relaxed and comfortable, without ever appearing stiff or out of place.



# STAGE PRESENCE

**The show begins before the first note is played.**

## **DWIGHT YOAKAM**

You can usually count on Dwight Yoakam to take the stage in his painted-on blue jeans and low-tilted Stetson, but it's his motley mixture of denim jackets, leather fringe, bolo ties and boisterous belt buckles that put the glitz in his get-ups and the scoot in his boots.

## **MARTY STUART**

Donning implausibly big hair, silk scarves and rhinestone-encrusted Manuel jackets, Marty Stuart's ornate flair is almost as crowd-pleasing as his effortless merger of the country, honky-tonk and rockabilly sounds that have made him a pillar in the industry for more than 40 years.

## **JASON ISBELL**

Americana mainstay Jason Isbell keeps it classy onstage, sporting dark, solid colors and often channeling his inner Johnny Cash by wearing all-black ensembles. Sure, there may be an occasional pinstriped jacket in the mix, but Jason likes to lurk in the shadows while his voice and guitar take the spotlight.





### BIG KENNY

Every circus needs a ring-leader, and Big & Rich's Big Kenny is country's version of that guy, regularly swaddling himself in acres of the wildest prints imaginable and enough neck jewelry to make LL Cool J jealous.

### SAM HUNT

Soulful crooner Sam's look is all urban cool: slim-to-skinny jeans, flat-billed caps and T-shirts in a fairly simple color palette. Picture some mixture of Johnny Cash and LeBron James and you're in the neighborhood.

## ON THE EDGE

**Where only the courageous dare to tread.**

### ZAC BROWN

Zac has been repping the lumberjack-beard-as-accessory since time immemorial and he recently shifted his whole look from street busker to musical carnie simply by replacing his knit beanie with a top hat. That's making an accessory work for you.



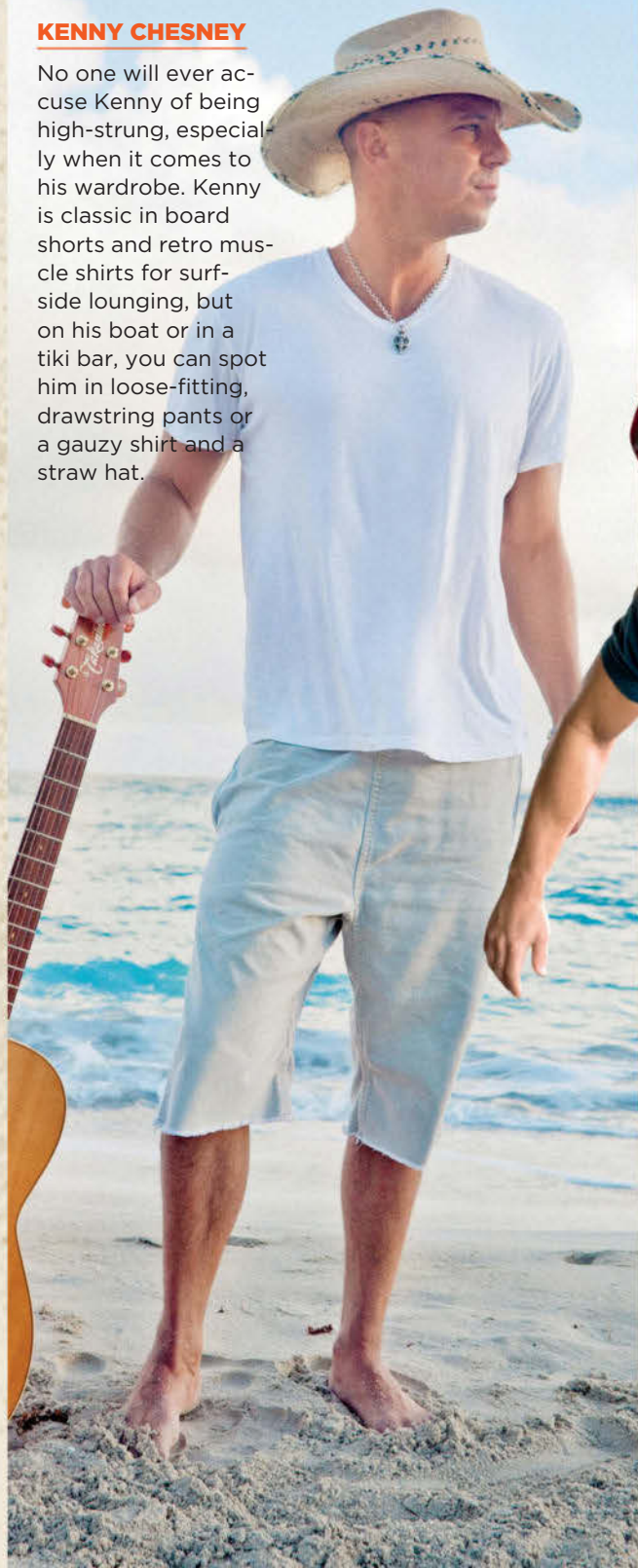


# BEACH BUMS

## Sand, surf or skate?

### KENNY CHESNEY

No one will ever accuse Kenny of being high-strung, especially when it comes to his wardrobe. Kenny is classic in board shorts and retro muscle shirts for surf-side lounging, but on his boat or in a tiki bar, you can spot him in loose-fitting, drawstring pants or a gauzy shirt and a straw hat.



### BILLY CURRINGTON

We aren't sure if Billy has a permanent Hawaiian zip code, but that golden glow sure makes him look like he does. All he needs is a pair of colorful board shorts, his laid-back grin and a headful of bouncing curls to fit the part.



### KIP MOORE

If there's a respectable wave nearby, you can bet that Kip is going to surf it. But when he's not oceanside, Kip is happy to grind a curb on his skateboard, decked out in his athletic wear and signature ball cap. After all, he was a two-sport athlete in college. **NCW**



# SHORE LEAVE

**Boots on the Beach brings military families to paradise for a little rest and relaxation.**

STORY BY ASHLEY EICHER | PHOTOS BY MATT BLAIR

**WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU PUT** seven country music stars on the beaches of Jamaica to honor our U.S. service members and their significant others?

The answer is Boots on the Beach, a fun-filled all-star country music celebration held Memorial Day weekend that was packed with concerts and excursions to guarantee a once-in-a-lifetime experience for the couples attending.

"I would go anywhere. I would go to the sandiest, hottest places that our military goes to be able to hang out with them because of all they do for us," said Jerrod Niemann, who was among the artists attending. "But to be able to come to Jamaica and enjoy paradise with our troops its like getting the best of both worlds."

Hosted by the beautiful Sandals

Ochi Beach Resort in Ocho Rios, Jamaica, guests were treated to nightly concerts from Jerrod, Chris Young and Tyler Farr as well as an afternoon poolside performance from Casey James.

"Playing by the pool was pretty chill and relaxing," said Casey. "I'm always excited to play. I'm here to entertain, enjoy myself and give back to the troops and their families. This is the time of day I love the most."

New faces Cam, Logan Mize and Josh Dorr kicked off the weekend with a special acoustic show hosted by Taya Kyle, *American Sniper* widow and founder of the Chris Kyle Frog Foundation. Inspired by one of her favorite getaways with Chris, Taya wanted to find a way to give military couples some time away from their daily responsibilities to rejuvenate

and reconnect after deployment.

"There was a time when Chris was in training and we just really needed some time together," said Taya. "My mom took the kids and sent me to meet Chris for the weekend. We got a hotel, ordered room service, watched movies and just hung out. It was so simple yet is one of my most cherished memories. So to be able to send these couples on a revitalization retreat and give them time to reconnect either in their hometown or in a place like Jamaica is unique and really special."

Six deserving military couples were presented with a trip to Boots on the Beach, courtesy of the Boot Campaign and the Chris Kyle Frog Foundation.

"I've loved getting to spend time with the couples and families that are here,"





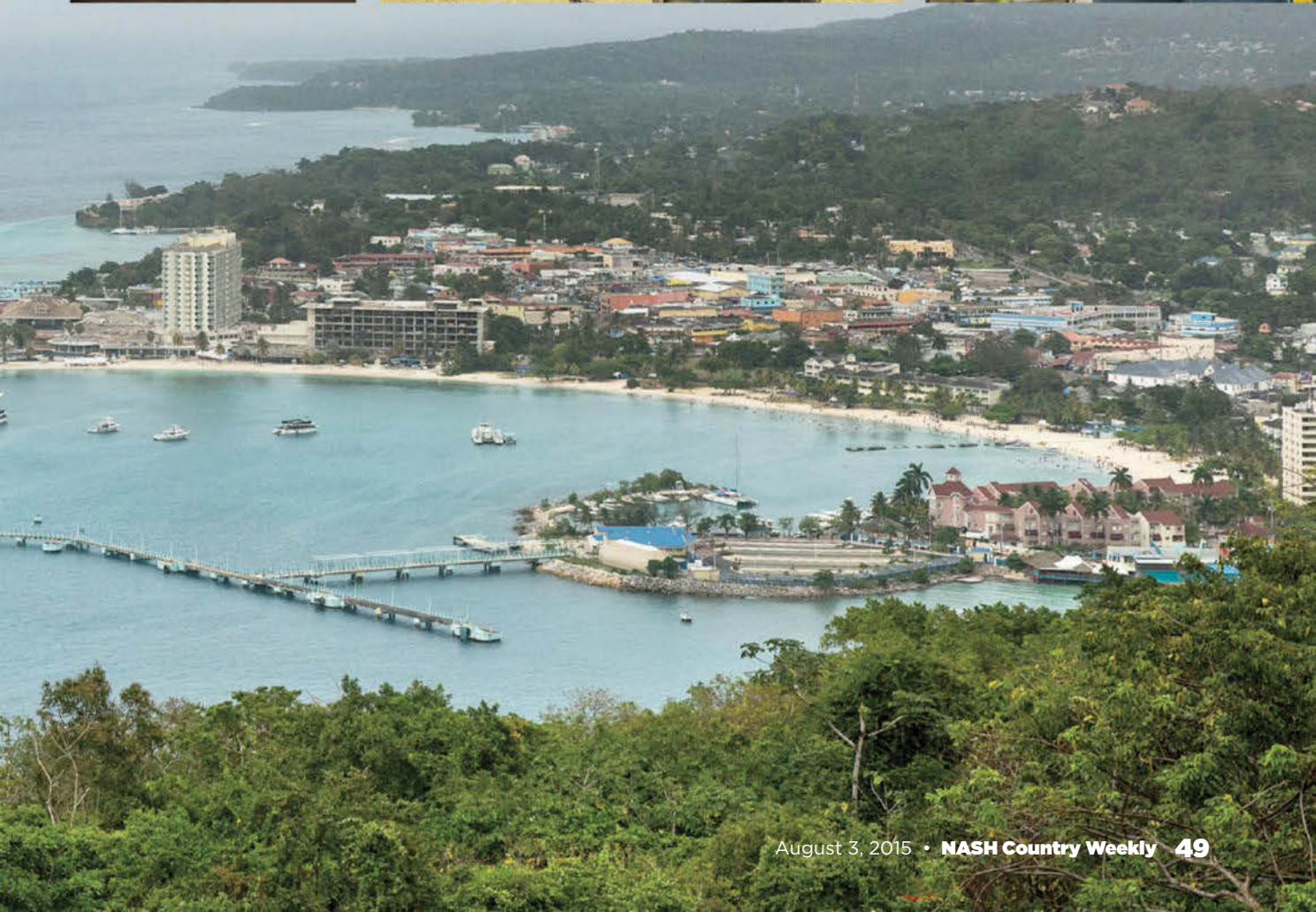
**Jerrod Niemann (left) and Tyler Farr enjoy a cocktail; (below) Josh Dorr performs at the home once owned by Johnny and June Carter Cash.**



**Casey James plays poolside; (above) new faces Cam and Logan Mize cut up.**



**Jerrod strums a tune.**







Jerrod and Tyler enjoy a bobsled ride; (right) Tyler hits the stage.



Taya Kyle, widow of Chris Kyle.



Married Marines Tatiana and Phil get their long-overdue first dance.



**FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT  
bootcampaign.com or  
chriskylefrogfoundation.org**

## BOOTS ON THE BEACH CONT.

said Tyler Farr. “These couples don’t get enough time to relax and let their hair down, so I’m glad we get to be a part of giving them a few days to do that.”

“Time is such a precious thing to these couples,” said Josh Dorr. “To see how happy they are to just be able spend some time together is really cool. It’s what this weekend is all about.”

One of the more emotional moments of the weekend came Saturday night, when Chris Young brought Phil and Tatiana McGill to the stage and surprised them with their first dance during his performance of “Who I Am With You.” Phil and Tatiana met and

got married while both were serving in the Marines. Now, 10 years later, they have two children, but they never had a traditional wedding due to multiple deployments. They called this weekend the honeymoon they never had.

“Being able to surprise Tatiana and Phil was amazing,” said Chris. “I’ve had a lot of people get engaged to this song during a show, but this will be the first time I’ve had the opportunity to give someone their first dance.”

“I don’t even know how to describe the feeling I had inside when Chris called us up to the stage,” Tatiana said. “I just started crying. I couldn’t believe what was happening. All I could do was

look at Phil and say, ‘I love you.’ Phil sings ‘Who I Am With You’ to me in the car. So when Chris sang that song to us, it was a dream come true.”

The fun continued with multiple excursions throughout the weekend, including the Mystic Mountain Bobsled Ride, which Jerrod and Tyler decided to ride tandem. The small roller coaster brought participants through the lush rainforest and gave them a peek at island animals.

“I’m trying to let my guts settle,” Jerrod said as he stepped off the bobsled. “I’m kidding. That was amazing and everyone needs to do it.”

“I think we set the world record for this course,” added Tyler.





**Jerrod Niemann** helps the military guests at **Boots on the Beach** cut loose



**Josh Dorr** reels one in; (below) **Chris Young** cruises with a group of guests.



**Chris Young** rocks out during his set; (left) **Casey James** unwinds.



(From left) **Jerrod Niemann**, **Logan Mize**, **Chris Young**, **Boots Campaign** executive director of marketing **Joey Jones**, **Cam**, **Casey James** and **Josh Dorr**

Additionally, guests were treated to the Island Routes Catamaran Cruise and Rum Tasting, hosted by Chris Young, a karaoke night and a secret performance with Casey James. But the capper came at the end of the week-end, when Jerrod, Cam, Logan and Josh played an acoustic show on hallowed ground: the lawn of Johnny and June Carter Cash's Jamaican vacation home. Johnny and June bought the house, known as Cinnamon Hill, in the mid-1970s and lived in it part-time, mostly during the winter months, for more than 40 years. Johnny and June loved to entertain family and friends in the house, including Billy and Ruth Gra-

ham, for whom one of the guest rooms is named. According to the tour guide, the house has remained just as they left it on their last visit in November 2002, complete with Johnny's shoes sitting behind the great room door. In tribute to Johnny and June, Jerrod performed "I Walk the Line" and Josh sang "Folsom Prison Blues." Cam and Logan were clearly moved by the opportunity to sing a duet of "Jackson" on the front lawn of the Cash home. "Johnny Cash was a revolutionary in country music and an icon," said Cam. "Being able perform on the lawn of his last standing home was inspiring to me." "Playing a legendary Johnny Cash and

June Carter duet in their home was pretty surreal," Logan said. "When you start off as a 16-year-old kid singing in your room and learning to play guitar, you never imagine that someone would one day send you to Jamaica to sing a duet in Johnny Cash's home. It's pretty cool." The Boot Campaign is a nonprofit organization that promotes patriotism, awareness of our military's post-service challenges and provides assistance to our military, past and present, and their families. The Chris Kyle Frog Foundation is a nonprofit dedicated to providing our military with meaningful interactive experiences that enrich family relationships. **NCW**



A man in full camouflage gear, including a cap with 'SCENTLOK' and sunglasses, stands against a dark wooden wall. He is holding a compound bow across his body. The title 'HEAVEN on Earth' is overlaid in large white text, with a horizontal arrow pointing right passing through the word 'on'.

# HEAVEN *on* Earth

*HeadHunters' Nate Hosie finds  
his happiness on the hunt and  
now with a guitar in hand.*



**Typically, Nate Hosie's instrument of choice is a shotgun.** But the outdoor enthusiast and *HeadHunters* host is using a whole different set of tools as he works to finish up his debut country album. With the help of his friends in Nashville, including hit songwriter Rhett Akins, Nate is polishing a handful of original tunes to be released digitally this summer.

"I am shocked by the route everything is going, because this whole music thing kind of happened by mistake," Nate says from the "man cave" of his Montdale, Pa., home, which is decorated with numerous mounted deer and turkeys.

Nate's interest in music started to grow in 2004 when he lost his sister Marla in an automobile accident. One of his last memories of Marla was of her playing guitar, which inspired Nate to do the same. "It helped me remember her when I played," he says.

Just a few months prior, Nate nearly lost his own life in a car accident on his way to the woods. His neck was severely broken. "That year I did a lot of soul searching," Nate says softly. "I was angry and upset at the way some parts of my life had gone. What I learned from that hard year was it was the best year of my life because I realized whatever I do in the future, I want to try to make a difference to somebody."

Nate's first recorded music appeared in May 2015, when he partnered with Realtree for the release of "Here's to You"—now the camouflage company's official branding piece. "It was a really cool opportunity. It's just [saying], here's to all the people in America and to all those who give us the ability to be free," Nate explains.

Like many country artists, Nate's original music will focus on his passion for life, the outdoors and his patriotism. "I live the life that I sing about in my songs," says Nate. "A lot of my songs are fun, party songs, but a lot of them are more serious



**Nate rocks the stage at the Hardware Bar in Scranton, Pa., in 2014; (below) Nate (left) and Rhett Akins take down a couple of Toms during turkey season.**



with things that have happened in my own life or things that I've seen happen in somebody else's life that inspired me. I just want people to be able to not only tap their feet to my music, but to relate to it."

In the meantime, fans can catch him on the fifth season of *HeadHunters* on the Outdoor Channel, which brings Nate and the show's founder, Randy Birdsong, into living rooms every Monday at 7 p.m. ET. Nate says the new season—like the ones before it—will deliver plenty of high-energy, reality-based hunts. "We think this is our best season yet," he says. "It has really come together nicely, from entertainment to the quality of footage and hunts."

"We've done a good job at creating a show where people just know that we love to hunt and we're thankful to be there," continues Nate, who has an impressive assortment of trophies he's taken home on behalf of *HeadHunters*. "A lot of people give hunting a bad name. They think it's this brutal sport, but hunting is one

of the most respectful and beautiful sports in the world. We are thankful to be sportsmen, and we will always stand up for our right to hunt. It's not only the kill, but the hunt, and it's about the memories you make."

Through all the ups and downs and understanding his purpose in life, Nate hopes to continue to bring some kind of enjoyment to those he meets along the way, whether through hunting or music. "When I broke my neck and was going into surgery, they said I had about a 90 percent chance of coming out a paraplegic or dead because of the severity and the unstableness of the break," reflects Nate. "A few months later, I remember sitting with the doctors and they said, 'You should play the lottery because you'll never understand how lucky you are. When it comes to angels, there was one on your shoulder.'"

"So many times when I take time to listen to a turkey gobbling when the sun's coming up or sit on the porch with my wife and think about the simple things, it makes me think about my life," he continues. "Maybe I am dead and this is my heaven. I hunt for a living. I get the opportunity to make music. I've got great friends and family that support me. There are ups and downs, but there are a lot of great things about my life, so you will never hear me complain. I am very thankful and I feel very blessed to get to live the life I do."

**ALANNA CONAWAY**







# DUST BUSTERS

Dallas Davidson unfailingly keeps close tabs on the life and career of his college buddy Luke Bryan. If Luke is heading into the studio, Dallas is always one of the first to know. If Luke is looking for songs, Dallas will be digging into his catalog or trying to craft the perfect song to suit Luke's needs.

After hitting No. 1 via Luke's version of "That's My Kind of Night," Dallas and his co-writers Ashley Gorley and Chris DeStefano had hopes of recreating the magic for Luke's forthcoming album. "Usually when we write, we don't make it for a specific artist, but this day we definitely had Luke in mind," remembers Dallas.

Chris DeStefano has earned a reputation for coming up with unique tracks, and his Asian-flavored riff got the ball rolling for more to follow. "It was such a cool track that he was building," says Dallas. "He sits there and builds it right in front of you. He's got instruments laying all over his office, and he can play all of them. Before long, we had this crazy track that we loved.

"We like to push him to make it a fresh sound that nobody's heard before, instead of chasing something that's already on the radio, which is easy to do," Dallas continues. "I know I can't do that without DeStefano, and neither can Ashley. We have to have his magic. We call him the Mad Scientist."

From there, the three began spitballing words that

## "KICK THE DUST UP"

LUKE BRYAN

**WRITERS:** Dallas Davidson, Chris DeStefano, Ashley Gorley



fit with the track, when Dallas spoke the words "kick the dust up." "We kind of sat there and wondered if that should be the title," says Dallas. "We started writing around it and writing the verses, then everything started making sense towards 'Kick the Dust Up.'"

As the song played out, the writers continued to dig deep to make sure the song would fit Luke's style and appeal to his fans. "The further we got into it, the more appealing it seemed to be to us, so we were excited about getting it to Luke," says Dallas.

As planned, they sent the song directly to Luke, who immediately loved it. "I remember when he played it for [label president] Mike Dungan at Capitol, he called me and said, 'Dal, Dungan loves it!'" Dallas recalls with a grin. "If Dungan approves, that means you probably have a single, not just an album cut!"

"Kick the Dust Up" did in fact become a single—the first single from Luke's forthcoming fifth studio album, *Kill the Lights*, due out Aug. 7. The song was so well-received that it not only became the name of his current tour, but also the tour's opening song.

"That song is killin' it right now," says Dallas. "My boy Luke's doing alright. He sure is good to me, Ashley and DeStefano. It's a good team, the four of us. Whether we're

writing together or apart, we have dangerous minds and it always seems to work out great in the end."

ALANNA CONAWAY

## COOL HAND CHRIS

**Chris DeStefano isn't just having his luck at composing unique tracks for Luke Bryan. Here are a handful of other hits in the recent years that have been huge successes for Chris.**

**"Why Ya Wanna"**  
Jana Kramer

**"Good Girl"**  
**"Something in the Water"**  
**"Little Toy Guns"**  
Carrie Underwood

**"We Are Tonight"**  
Billy Currington

**"Don't Ya"**  
Brett Eldredge

**"Aw Naw"**  
Chris Young

**"Just Gettin' Started"**  
Jason Aldean

**"Nothin' Like You"**  
Dan + Shay

**"Somethin' Bad"**  
Miranda Lambert

**"Rewind"**  
Rascal Flatts

**"Ready Set Roll"**  
Chase Rice



The week of July 25, 2015

## TOP 25 BILLBOARD ALBUMS

TW	LW	2W	TITLE / ARTIST
1	1	—	ABOUT TO GET REAL EASTON CORBIN
2	2	1	PAGEANT MATERIAL KACEY MUSGRAVES
3	3	2	MONTEVALLO SAM HUNT
4	4	3	JEKYLL + HYDE ZAC BROWN BAND
5	5	5	NOW THAT'S WHAT I CALL COUNTRY, VOL. 8 • VARIOUS ARTISTS
6	6	6	PAIN KILLER LITTLE BIG TOWN
7	7	8	THE OUTSIDERS ERIC CHURCH
8	8	9	JUST AS I AM BRANTLEY GILBERT
9	9	7	DJANGO AND JIMMIE WILLIE NELSON & MERLE HAGGARD
10	10	10	OLD BOOTS, NEW DIRT JASON ALDEAN
11	11	11	ANYTHING GOES FLORIDA GEORGIA LINE
12	12	21	BRINGING BACK THE SUNSHINE BLAKE SHELTON
13	13	4	BRONCO CANAAN SMITH
14	14	13	SPRING BREAK... CHECKIN' OUT LUKE BRYAN
15	15	12	CRASH MY PARTY LUKE BRYAN
16	16	16	GREATEST HITS: DECADE #1 CARRIE UNDERWOOD
17	19	25	COLE SWINDELL COLE SWINDELL
18	17	15	SOUTHERNALITY A THOUSAND HORSES
19	24	22	IGNITE THE NIGHT CHASE RICE
20	21	19	THE FIRST TIME KELSEA BALLERINI
21	18	29	TRAVELLER CHRIS STAPLETON
22	23	14	35 BIGGEST HITS TIM MCGRAW
23	22	17	SOUTHERN STYLE DARIUS RUCKER
24	20	18	OUTLAW IN ME THE LACS
25	25	20	SUMMER FOREVER BILLY CURRINGTON

## TOP 25 BILLBOARD SINGLES

TW	LW	2W	TITLE / ARTIST
1	4	7	LOVE YOU LIKE THAT CANAAN SMITH
2	2	4	TONIGHT LOOKS GOOD ON YOU JASON ALDEAN
3	1	1	SANGRIA BLAKE SHELTON
4	5	8	GIRL CRUSH LITTLE BIG TOWN
5	6	9	ONE HELL OF AN AMEN BRANTLEY GILBERT
6	7	10	KISS YOU IN THE MORNING MICHAEL RAY
7	3	5	BABY BE MY LOVE SONG EASTON CORBIN
8	9	11	KICK THE DUST UP LUKE BRYAN
9	12	14	YOUNG & CRAZY FRANKIE BALLARD
10	10	13	LOVING YOU EASY ZAC BROWN BAND
11	11	12	CRUSHIN' IT BRAD PAISLEY
12	13	15	HELL OF A NIGHT DUSTIN LYNCH
13	14	16	HOUSE PARTY SAM HUNT
14	15	18	CRASH AND BURN THOMAS RHETT
15	16	17	LIKE A WRECKING BALL ERIC CHURCH
16	17	19	BUY ME A BOAT CHRIS JANSON
17	18	20	LOSE MY MIND BRETT ELDREDGE
18	19	22	JOHN COUGAR, JOHN DEERE, JOHN 3:16 • KEITH URBAN
19	20	21	FLY MADDIE & TAE
20	21	25	REAL LIFE JAKE OWEN
21	22	23	GONNA WANNA TONIGHT CHASE RICE
22	24	26	LET ME SEE YA GIRL COLE SWINDELL
23	23	24	I'M TO BLAME KIP MOORE
24	26	29	NOTHIN' LIKE YOU DAN + SHAY
25	25	27	LONG STRETCH OF LOVE LADY ANTEBELLUM

## TOP 10 AMERICANA AIRPLAY

TW	LW	TITLE / ARTIST
1	1	SOMETHING MORE THAN FREE JASON ISBELL
2	2	THE TRAVELING KIND EMMYLOU HARRIS & RODNEY CROWELL
3	3	DJANGO AND JIMMIE WILLIE NELSON & MERLE HAGGARD
4	4	STILL RICHARD THOMPSON
5	5	SOUND & COLOR ALABAMA SHAKES
6	8	TRAVELLER CHRIS STAPLETON
7	12	PAGEANT MATERIAL KACEY MUSGRAVES
8	7	THE RUFFIAN'S MISFORTUNE RAY WYLIE HUBBARD
9	10	THE TRAVELER RHETT MILLER
10	6	SECOND HAND HEART DWIGHT YOAKAM

SOURCE: AMERICANA AIRPLAY CHART

## rdio TOP 5 TRENDING COUNTRY SONGS\*

TW	TITLE / ARTIST
1	TAKE YOUR TIME SAM HUNT
2	LIKE A WRECKING BALL ERIC CHURCH
3	HIGH TIME KACEY MUSGRAVES
4	GIRL CRUSH LITTLE BIG TOWN
5	BREAK UP IN A SMALL TOWN SAM HUNT

## TOP 5 TRENDING COUNTRY/AMERICANA/SOUTHERN ALBUMS\*

TW	TITLE / ARTIST
1	CRASH MY PARTY LUKE BRYAN
2	RED TAYLOR SWIFT
3	LITTLE NEON LIMELIGHT HOUNDMOUTH
4	SOUTHEASTERN JASON ISBELL
5	MONTEVALLO SAM HUNT

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\*DATA FROM JULY 13, 2015





Darius Rucker



Hunter Hayes



Brantley Gilbert

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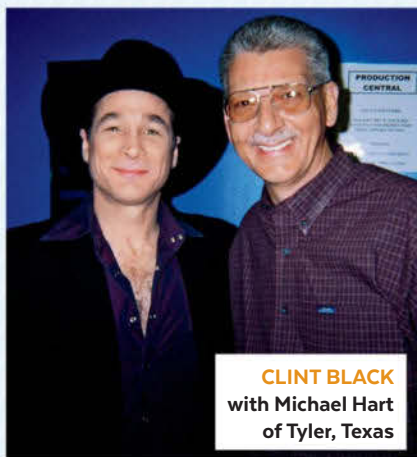




**LEE BRICE** with Elisa Sciortino, Carinne Fassari and Jennifer Miller of Staten Island, N.Y.



**HUNTER HAYES** with Erin Bourne of Wallingford, Vt.



**CLINT BLACK** with Michael Hart of Tyler, Texas



**CARRIE UNDERWOOD** with Sydney Smith, Shelby Ruemmler, Cody Morris, Jady Fraley, Annie Spielman and Alyssa Ellis of Lakeville, Minn.



**CANAAN SMITH** with Megan Mendoza of San Diego



**MONTGOMERY GENTRY** with Riley Robertson of Marietta, Ga., and Emiline Jeffares of Tallapoosa, Ga.

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Send photos to Nash Flash, Nash Country Weekly, 506 2nd Avenue South, Suite 200, Nashville, TN 37210, or submit online (no duplicate submissions, please) at [countryweekly.com/fanphotos](http://countryweekly.com/fanphotos). Be sure to include the name, hometown and state of each person pictured. Publication is not guaranteed; photos cannot be returned.



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# WORDSEARCH

Compiled by John Reiman

## DRINKING SONGS

X B Y E K S I H W D N A E N I H S N U S  
E C O Y P S W S J R C E R T Q F U B Q S  
K N U R T E H T N I E N I H S N O O M A  
C L A E I Y I H O N E A F G E R Y T A L  
A L N T N E S G E K I L N I Y E N T G C  
B I D S I Y K I N T L P O N E D O O U G  
N K T A L L E L I O R A N T R S K M Y N  
O Z E O E E Y D H T A N I S U O N S W I  
T Z Q C E N I A S H B O P A O L U U A K  
I U U R F O N E R A S K P L Y O R P L N  
P B I E B L M H U T I N I K E C D Y K I  
I Z L L Z A Y E O A H U S N S U G O S R  
T D A L N I W H Y L T R R U O P C S I D  
Z G N O C R A T T L E D Q R L R F H N Y  
Q P I R E G T N E N V Q K D C I N A T A  
C O L D O N E I G I O N Q A Q I G D O D  
W X P F B A R R O G L R E D N E T R A B  
W H E N I S E E T H I S B A R W E E B W  
Y E K S I H W E H T H T R O W T N I A J  
G D R I N K A B E E R S A G O W Z O R G

A GUY WALKS INTO A BAR  
AIN'T WORTH THE WHISKEY  
BARTENDER  
BEER IN THE HEADLIGHTS  
BEERS AGO  
BOTTOMS UP  
BUZZKILL  
CLOSE YOUR EYES  
COLD ONE  
DAY DRINKING  
DRINKING CLASS

DRINK A BEER  
DRINK TO THAT ALL NIGHT  
DRUNK LAST NIGHT  
DRUNK ON A PLANE  
DRUNK ON YOU  
FEELIN' IT  
GET YOUR SHINE ON  
I LOVE THIS BAR  
LONELY EYES  
MOONSHINE IN THE TRUNK  
RED SOLO CUP

ROLLER COASTER  
SANGRIA  
SIPPIN' ON FIRE  
SUNSHINE AND  
WHISKEY  
TIP IT ON BACK  
WHEN I SEE THIS BAR  
WHISKEY IN MY  
WATER  
YOU AND TEQUILA



Find the song titles in this wordsearch challenge submitted by **NICHOLLE WALTERS** of **Westmont, Ill.**

NOTE—they may appear vertically, horizontally, diagonally, backward or forward. Good luck!

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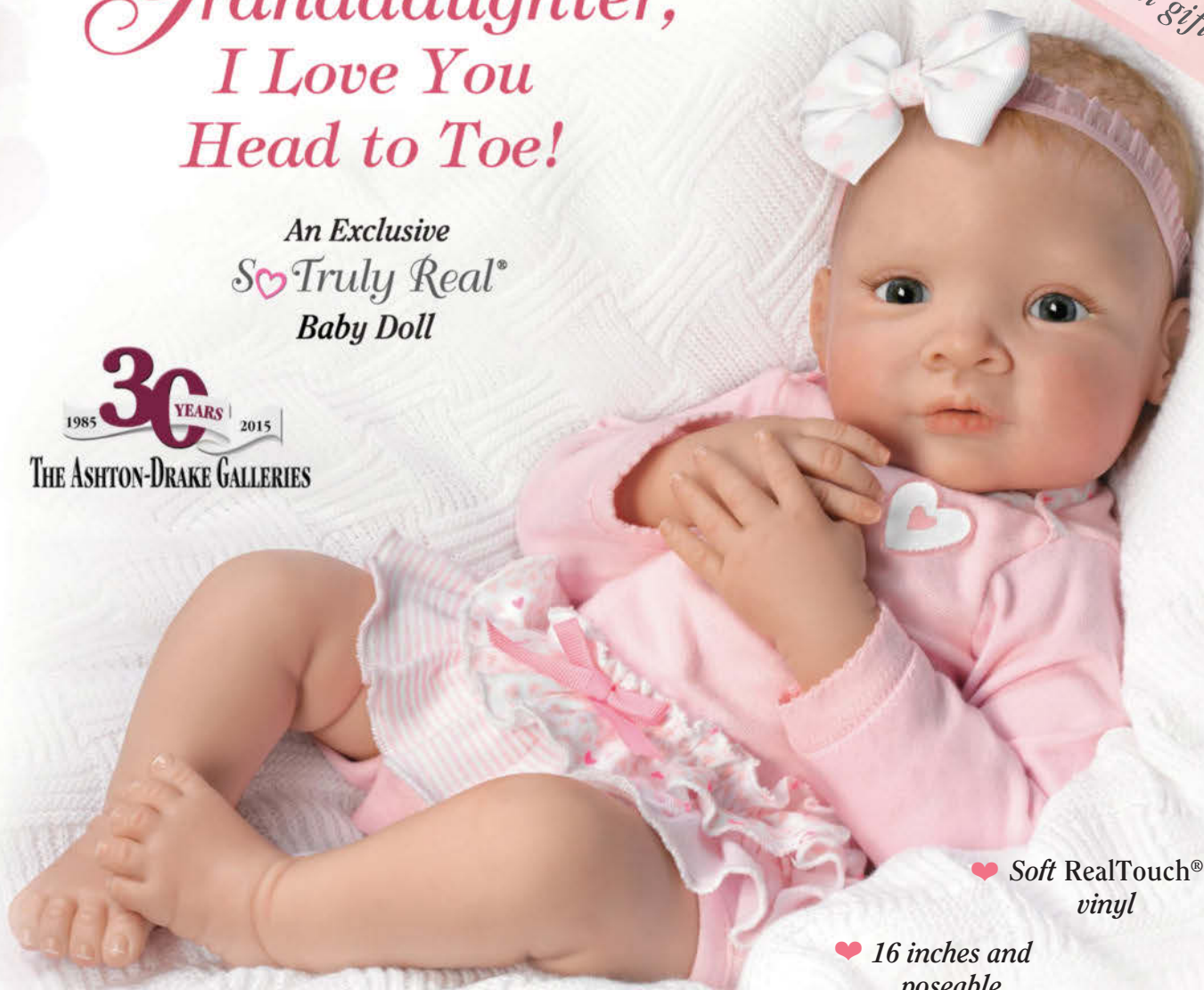
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## CONTRIBUTORS

*We get by with a little help from our friends.*



**Matt Blair**

is a Nashville-based photographer and two-year *Nash Country Weekly* contributor. He also produces and directs promotional pieces for Scripps Network. A lover of film, photographing Kevin Bacon has been his favorite shoot so far. Does Scorsese have a country band yet?



**Ashley Hylbert**

enjoys shooting commercial, editorial and lifestyle projects out of her Nashville-based White Avenue Studio and on location. When she's not behind the camera, she can be found in front of the computer.



**Holly Carden**

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**Vernell Hackett**

is based in Nashville, where she writes about entertainment, travel, pets and interesting people. Vernell contributed a short story to *Literary Cash: Writings Inspired by the Legendary Johnny Cash* and co-authored *Ghosts, Gangsters and Gamblers of Las Vegas*. She wrote *Carrie Underwood: A Biography* for ABC/Clio/Greenwood's celebrity series for libraries.



# Sparkling with Wisdom!

THOMAS KINKADEE  
*Painter of Light*

Her eyes  
twinkle with  
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crystals!

ENHANCED WITH  
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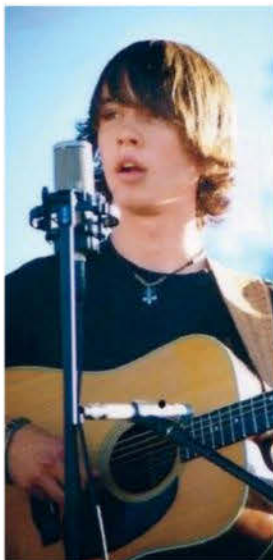
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**“We’re all floating on a giant ball of matter in so-called ‘space’ . . . how weird is that?”**

**MICHAEL GOSSIN  
OF GLORIANA**



“My mom felt like I couldn’t do my schoolwork with my guitar in the room. I said if she would just let me hold it while I was doing my schoolwork, I would get better grades. So I would answer a couple questions, play a few chords on the guitar and go back to doing my work. My grades did improve.”

**MO PITNEY**

## Oscar Worthy

**TOM HIDDLESTON**’s turn as Hank Williams in the upcoming biopic *I Saw the Light* could have Oscar implications for the Brit. Biopics about musicians have historically drawn the favor of the Academy, including *Coal Miner’s Daughter* (Sissy Spacek, Best Actress, 1981), *Shine* (Geoffrey Rush, Best Actor, 1997), *Ray* (Jamie Foxx, Best Actor, 2005) and *Walk the Line* (Reese Witherspoon, Best Actress, 2006), among others.



## THE \$OUND OF MUSIC

**ACCORDING TO FORBES’ 2015 LIST OF THE WORLD’S HIGHEST-PAID CELEBRITIES, THE TOP 10 GROSSING MUSICIANS ARE:**

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10. LADY GAGA: \$59 MILLION



## Reba McEntire Vs. Brooks & Dunn



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<b>12</b>	<b>BILLBOARD NO. 1 ALBUMS</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>GRAMMYS</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>CMA AWARDS</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>ACM AWARDS</b>	<b>26</b>

Michael by Tyler Andrews; Mo courtesy Mo Pitney/facebook; Garth by Ethan Miller/Academy of Country Music; Tom by James Higgins/Corbis; Reba courtesy Sarsstruck Entertainment; B&D by Russ Harrington/SONY BMG



# H PE

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LONGER SEEMS ONE SONG  
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FIDE ‘NEXT BIG THING’.”

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